

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Cowboys make surprise move, cut quarterback Carter

Page 31

Quincy Carter

Official calls for more time to count military ballots in Nov.

Page 7

Hip-hop world takes on voter recruitment

Page 19

Sean "P. Diddy" Combs

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2004

Free in Deployed Areas

Negligence cited in hike in gunshot casualties

Troops in Afghanistan criticized for unsafe weapons handling Page 4

BULWARK '04 EXERCISES IN BULGARIA

GPS has an eye on GIs in the field

Page 8



Members of Company A, 2nd Battalion of the 130th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard veer around a corner into a building during a Military Operations on Urban Terrain exercise Sunday. The soldiers are wearing DISE — Deployable Instrumental Systems in Europe — gear, a Global Positioning System used to track individual troops, weaponry and vehicles during training scenarios.

LISA HORN
Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Elizabeth Smart kidnapping: A judge in Salt Lake City has ruled that mental competency hearings for the homeless man accused of kidnapping Elizabeth Smart must be open, saying that allowing the public to observe would not prevent a fair trial.

Tuesday's ruling ended a monthlong legal fight over the issue, brought by attorneys for defendant Brian David Mitchell.

Mitchell's competency hearings are scheduled for Aug. 31 through Sept. 2.

Mitchell and his wife, Wanda Barzee, are accused of kidnapping Elizabeth Smart from her bedroom in June 2002. She was found safe nine months later.

Barzee was deemed incompetent to stand trial in January, and is undergoing treatment at a state mental hospital.

Moussaoui case: Rejecting government objections, a federal judge in Alexandria, Va., reaffirmed Tuesday that defense psychiatrists can have continued access to terrorism suspect Zacarias Moussaoui.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema, upholding an earlier ruling, said the prosecution would not be prejudiced by psychiatric interviews or observations of Moussaoui while his case remains on hold.

Moussaoui is the only U.S. defendant charged with participating in a terrorist conspiracy that included the Sept. 11 attacks.

Missing Utah woman: The husband of a missing pregnant woman told a "reliable citizen" witness at a psychiatric ward that he killed his wife as she slept and dumped her body in a trash bin, according to a court document filed by prosecutors in Salt Lake City.

The tip, coupled with another from a neighbor and a bloody knife and other evidence, are leading investigators to believe that they'll eventually find the remains of Lori Hacking in a county landfill.

Their methodical search through 3,000 tons of trash was to resume Wednesday night. The digging started within days after Mark Hacking told police July 19 that his wife had disappeared.

Staten Island ferry crash: A Staten Island Ferry pilot pleaded guilty Wednesday to manslaughter in the crash that killed 11 commuters last October, acknowledging that he passed out at the ship's controls after arriving at work with medication in his system. A higher-up in the ferry operation also was charged with manslaughter.

"I was not in proper physical condition to safely operate the Staten Island Ferry," Richard Smith said at his Brooklyn federal court hearing, entering his plea under an agreement reached with prosecutors. "I lost consciousness and was not in control of the ferry when it crashed."

The ferry, the Andrew J. Barberi, crashed as it was docking on a run from Manhattan, tearing a 250-foot-long gash that ran 8 feet deep into its hull.

A federal indictment returned Wednesday also accused director of ferry operations Patrick Ryan with 11 counts of manslaughter, along with obstruction of justice and lying to the Coast Guard after the crash.



Mitchell



California restructuring: California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger discusses the California Performance Review, which outlines methods to restructure the state's government to save money, during a news conference in Sacramento, Calif., on Tuesday. The plan includes consolidating departments, cutting 12,000 state positions and privatizing some work.

World

Paraguay supermarket blaze: The co-owner of a supermarket and five others were charged with manslaughter for a fire that killed 464 people, after a security guard testified he was ordered to lock the burning store's doors to prevent looting, trapping shoppers inside.

Owner Juan Pio Paiva rejected the allegations as he was brought to jail Tuesday, shouting, "My conscience is clear."

Interior Minister Orlando Fiorotto said Wednesday early evidence pointed to an accidental gas leak as the cause of the fire.

South Asia flooding: The death toll from monsoon flooding in India crossed 1,000 on Wednesday with reports of more than 165 people killed by rains that destroyed crops, flooded highways and halted trains across South Asia.

The toll across South Asia from six weeks of monsoons reached 1,823, according to official figures compiled by The Associated Press.

Nearly 130 deaths occurred in India's western Gujarat state over the past three days in remote areas unreachable by roads or telephone, said state spokesman I.K. Jadia.

Sudan protests: More than 100,000 people staged a state-organized protest Wednesday in Khartoum, Sudan, against a U.N. Security Council resolution giving Sudan 30 days to stop Arab militia violence in Darfur or face economic and diplomatic penalties.

Protesters also warned that Sudan could become a battlefield like Afghanistan or Iraq if foreign military forces enter this African country to try end the 17-month Darfur conflict, which has killed 30,000 people, forced a million from their homes and left an estimated 2.2 million people in urgent need of food, medicine and other basics.

While no Western government has threatened to invade Sudan, such intervention has been discussed since it became clear the Khartoum government was failing to curb the alleged perpetrators of most of the violence in Darfur.

Hijacker trial: A lawyer for a Moroccan accused of helping the Sept. 11 hijackers said Wednesday he will seek to have the case against his client thrown out when his retrial opens next week in Hamburg, Germany, arguing that he has no chance of getting a fair trial.

Attorney Josef Graesse-Muencher cited

doubts about whether statements from a key al-Qaida suspect in U.S. custody — if the U.S. Justice Department decides to provide them — could be admitted in the case against Moumni el Motassadeq.

El Motassadeq, 30, was convicted in February 2003 of providing logistical help to the Hamburg al-Qaida cell that included three of the suicide pilots and sentenced to 15 years in prison on more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization.

He won a retrial in March, however, after appeals judges ruled he was unfairly denied testimony from Bin alshibh, a Yemeni in U.S. custody who is believed to have been the Hamburg cell's key contact with al-Qaida. Judges then freed el Motassadeq, saying there was no longer enough evidence to hold him pending his retrial.

U.K. terror suspects: London police on Wednesday questioned 12 young men arrested in a series of anti-terrorist raids across England that added to jitters about a possible attack in Britain, but also fueled suspicions among Muslims that they are being unfairly singled out.

A parliamentary report released Wednesday agreed, saying there was "mounting evidence" that anti-terrorist legislation was being used disproportionately against Muslims.

Police arrested 13 men, aged between 19 and 32, late Tuesday in raids in London, the nearby towns of Watford and Luton and Blackburn in northwest England.

One man was released Wednesday without charge. The others were being questioned at a London police station "on suspicion of being concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism," police said.

Jenkins case: Accused U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins will meet with a U.S. military attorney soon to discuss his case and legal options, the Japanese government said Wednesday.

Jenkins, 64, is accused of deserting his Army platoon in South Korea in 1965 and defecting to the communist North. He has been hospitalized in Japan since last month.

Japanese news reports say the meeting will come on Friday, but Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda would say not exactly when the meeting would take place.

The military lawyer will be sent from a U.S. Army base in South Korea, and Japanese news reports said the counsel could arrive as soon as Thursday.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Iraqi citizen raid frees Jordanian hostages

Fallujah tribal chief says he led charge to recover 4 held by kidnappers

BY SAMEER N. YACUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A tribal chief in the turbulent city of Fallujah said Wednesday he led a raid that freed four Jordanian hostages, while a militant group reportedly released two Turkish workers after Turkish truck drivers agreed to halt deliveries to U.S. forces here.

Meanwhile, fierce fighting between Iraqi police and militants killed 12 Iraqis in the northern city of Mosul.

The Jordanian hostages were kidnapped eight days ago along a highway near Fallujah by a gang of kidnappers that never named its demands, said Ahmad Abu-Jaffar, one of the freed captives.

"The kidnappers have nothing to do with the resistance," Abu-Jaffar told The Associated Press by telephone. "The good people of Fallujah moved and save us from this."

Also Wednesday, the Arab satellite network al-Jazeera reported that an al-Qaida-linked militant group in Iraq said it will free two Turkish hostages after their company promised to stop sending trucks to U.S. troops in Iraq.

Hours later, Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said the men had been freed.

"The two Turkish hostages in Iraq have been released," Turkey's Anatolia news agency quoted Gul as saying. "This good news has made us happy."

Turkey's truckers association said Monday it was halting deliveries to U.S. forces in Iraq in hopes of freeing the men after the release of a video that showed militants shooting and killing contractor Murat Uye.

In Mosul, dozens of masked men with assault rifles and rocket propelled grenades launched moves through the streets in the Bab al-Toub area of the city. Police headed to the area and a gunbattle, punctuated by explosions, broke out, witnesses said.

The U.S. military said the violence was part of a series of attacks in the city, including a grenade attack that hit a home, a drive-by shooting at a police station and a roadside bomb attack on a U.S. convoy that did not kill any U.S. troops.

The fighting killed 12 Iraqis and injured 26 others, according to Maher Salam, an official at al-Jumhuri Hospital.

The violence began when militants tried to loot the al-Jazeera bank and were confronted by police and other security forces, said Hazem Jalawi, spokesman for the provincial government.



From left, Ahmed Hassan Abu Jaffar, 47; Ahmed Tayseer, 27; Khaled Ahmed, 41; and Mohammed Khleifat, 41, the four Jordanian former hostages, are shown Wednesday after they were rescued unharmed in Fallujah, Iraq.

Another group attacked the Bab al-Shat police station with small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades, he said. Police responded, killing two of the attackers and arresting three others.

The raid to free the Jordanian hostages began after Sheikh Haj Ibrahim Jassam received word Tuesday evening that the four captives were being held in a house on the edge of Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, he said. About 100 armed members of Jassam's tribe raided the house, and the five kidnappers inside fled.

The Jordanians were brought to Jassam's house unharmed, he said.

"I called upon my brothers and tribesmen to free the hostages, so we raided the house last night," Jassam told The Associated Press. "I'm glad that those innocent Muslims were freed."

The four men eventually were handed over to Jordanian officials at a field hospital in Fallujah, but now have been moved elsewhere, Jordanian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ali al-Ayed said.

They are now in a safe place which we

will not disclose," al-Ayed told reporters. He said the four were in "good health" and would arrive home on Thursday.

The kidnappers had "several requests," he said. "We haven't met any of them."

The men were abducted by a group calling itself "Mujahideen of Iraq, the Group of Death." On July 27, Dubai Television broadcast a video showing four men holding what appeared to be Jordanian identification cards.

During their ordeal, the hostages were blindfolded and moved to a different house every two days, Mohammed Khleifat, an officer of the freed hostages told The Associated Press.

"We couldn't eat the food they gave us. The four of us got sick from the food and the water," he said.

The hostages heard that a man from the United Arab Emirates had been willing to pay the kidnappers \$500,000 ransom, but was led by members of Fallujah's local Shura Council put an end to that, Khleifat said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, 916 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department.

Of those, 680 died as a result of hostile action and 236 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 60 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 578 U.S. servicemembers have died — 571 as a result of hostile action and 207 of nonhostile causes, according to the Defense Department on Tuesday.

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 6,089 U.S. servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ Two U.S. soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb late Monday in Baghdad.

■ Two Marines died of wounds received in fighting Monday in Anbar Province west of Baghdad.

■ A Marine died Tuesday from a non-hostile gunshot wound.

■ One soldier died in a vehicle accident.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

Murder suspects won't be included in amnesty

BY MARIAM FARM

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A long-awaited amnesty plan intended to help end the 15-month-old insurgency in Iraq will not cover fighters who have killed anyone, a government official said Wednesday.

The government originally proposed the amnesty as part of a carrot-and-stick package to end the violence; the insurgents would be forgiven for their past crimes, but those who continued killing could be executed under a planned death penalty law.

But the amnesty, which was expected to have been announced soon after the interim Iraqi government took office June 28, has been delayed repeatedly, and subsequent drafts have narrowed the list of those eligible. Officials still

No word on when first prisoners could be released

were uncertain about when it might take effect.

"The amnesty covers those Iraqis who have not committed killings, who have been deceived into joining the resistance and who are now convinced that they made a mistake. We welcome them," said Georges Sada, spokesman for Prime Minister Ayad Alawli.

"Anyone who committed the crime of murder will not be covered by the amnesty."

Iraqi officials had said the amnesty might extend to those who killed U.S. and other coalition troops. U.S. officials said an early draft contained ambiguous language on that issue, but later drafts ruled it out.

Sada said the debate over the amnesty had nothing to do with U.S. pressure and that killers were never to have been covered by the amnesty.

"We have sovereignty. We don't go and ask the Americans how to act every time," he said. "Nobody at all has pressured us."

Sada said the amnesty plan was "fully completed" but still needed to be signed by Alawli, who returned Tuesday from a Middle East tour.

Those who could benefit from the amnesty include insurgents who stashed heavy weapons at their homes or drove cars used in attacks without killing anyone themselves, Sada said. He added that they should turn in their

weapons and denounce the resistance.

Experts have said some type of amnesty was needed to coax Iraqi nationalist guerrillas to the government's side and separate them from fighters using terrorist-style bombings.

Some militants have opposed the concept of amnesty as insulting, saying they were legitimately fighting against the foreign occupation of their country and do not need forgiveness.

President Ghazi al-Yawer said Wednesday the amnesty would have to precede reinstatement of the death penalty.

"The death penalty shall be issued, but before it, there shall be an amnesty," he said.

"The rule is amnesty, and the exception is the death penalty."



President Ghazi al-Yawer

Negligent discharges a problem in Afghanistan

Pritchett sees 'disturbing trend' as more troops injure, kill themselves and others

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — In the past 18 months, troops in Afghanistan have accidentally killed themselves or others at least six times and wounded nearly two dozen more troops through unsafe weapons handling, according to Army statistics released to Stars and Stripes.

In what military officials call negligent discharges, last year troops mistakenly fired their weapons 24 times in Afghanistan, injuring 18 and killing four.

So far this year, five troops have been wounded and two more have been killed in 16 accidental discharges.

In the same time frame, 24 troops have died from combat-related injuries in Afghanistan.

The top enlisted soldier in Afghanistan called the staccato of accidental firings a "disturbing trend" and took leaders to task recently for failing to enforce basic standards to prevent the mishaps.

"Insufficient training, ineffective supervision, negligence, inattentiveness and outright indiscipline are all contributing factors," Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett wrote in a recent column for the military's weekly newsletter in Afghanistan.

Pritchett penned the column after seeing six negligent discharges in her Kabul headquarters over the past two months.



Although no one was injured in any of those accidents, Lance Cpl. Russell White wasn't so lucky.

Assigned to 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines, White was the most recent fatality in Afghanistan when a fellow Marine mistakenly shot him in the head with a 9 mm pistol on June 20.

Spc. Jason Perkins knows he — or one his buddies — narrowly escaped becoming the next fatality.

A 22-year-old combat engineer with the Louisiana National Guard, Perkins shot himself in the foot

with his M16 rifle July 6 at Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan.

Perkins' rifle was on safe, but when his weapon caught on part of his uniform the bolt slammed forward, chambering a round and discharging.

"I feel pretty stupid," said Perkins, who's still recovering at Kandahar. "I'm just so glad I shot myself and not someone else."

Perkins did two things wrong, according to standard safety regulations: He left the bolt pulled back, and he should have paid attention to where the weapon was pointing.

Those are two of many things soldiers, and their leaders, need to pay attention to, wrote Pritchett. "Muzzle control, selector switch operations and fire discipline are critical to weapon safety. Whenever you see a safety violation, correct it. A moment's inattention can lead to disaster."

Forgetful fire

The statistics in Afghanistan do not include suicides and friendly fire incidents such as the one that left former professional football star and Army Ranger Pat Tillman dead after a firefight in April.

Instead, negligent discharges could more appropriately be dubbed "forgetful fire."



PHOTOS BY JON R. ANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Above and lower left: A soldier demonstrates safe handling of his weapon. Army statistics show increasing incidents of unsafe weapons handling in Afghanistan. In the past 18 months, troops in Afghanistan have accidentally killed themselves or others at least six times and wounded nearly two dozen more troops. Left: Spc. Jason Perkins shot himself in the foot on July 6, it was among the latest in a string of "negligent discharges." He is recovering in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

"Very few of these incidents happen due to a malfunction of the weapon itself; it is almost always due to negligent actions of the operator, or improper or inadequate training and supervision," said Lt. Col. Susan Meisner, U.S. forces spokeswoman in Afghanistan.

Although Army safety officials prefer the term "accidental discharge," most leaders use "negligent discharge," said Meisner, "to drive home the point."

She said that of the weapons mishaps in Afghanistan, about half have occurred while troops were clearing their weapons into clearing barrels. But during all the mishaps, she said, "proper clearing procedures were not followed."

Leaders attribute the high rate of negligent discharges in Afghanistan to basic awareness, she said.

"Soldiers aren't accustomed to carrying loaded weapons, and high turnover in theater requires constant training and reminders," she said.

Despite the fatalities and injuries, so far no troops in Afghanistan have faced criminal charges, officials said.

Instead, most have been handed letters of reprimand or nonjudicial Article 15 punishments, which include reductions in rank and fines, but do not remain on permanent records.

Although she said that military investigators have not determined "criminally culpable intent for a negligent-homicide charge" in any of the fatalities, White's death remains under investigation.

E-mail Jon R. Anderson at: andersonj@mail.strips.osd.mil



Army recruits face tougher basic training with eye on Iraq

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army is putting into place sweeping changes in its basic training program to prepare recruits for immediate missions to Iraq and Afghanistan. The New York Times reported in its Wednesday editions.

In what officers describe as the biggest changes to basic training since Vietnam, soldiers whose specialties traditionally kept them far from the front — clerks, cooks, truck drivers and communications technicians — will undergo far more stressful training.

The new training includes additional time dodging real bullets, more opportunities to fire weapons, including heavy machine guns, more time spent practicing urban combat and hiking and sleeping in the field, the Times reported.

Beyond Iraq, freshly minted soldiers

“Soldiers of all specialties will face direct contact with an adversary.”

Col. Bill Gallagher

Commander of the basic combat training brigade at Fort Benning, Ga.

could expect months of additional training in their unit before seeing combat.

But with the Army stretched by long-term deployments, soldiers often are in combat zones within 30 days of being assigned to a unit, and the traditional distinction between hazardous front lines and se-

cure rear areas has vanished, Army officials told the Times.

"There is no front, there is no rear," Col. Bill Gallagher, commander of the basic combat training brigade at Fort Benning, Ga., told the Times. "Soldiers of all specialties will face direct contact with an adversary. They all have to have a common set of combat skills."

Senior Army leadership must approve the plan and additional financing must be secured for the changes to become permanent, as many of the changes are more expensive.

Udai's lions sleep at the zoo tonight

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — There's no Army job classification for lion tamer, but some soldiers of the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion can add the job description to their resume after they recently helped move nine lions to the Baghdad Zoo.

Three of the lions, a male and two females, had belonged to Saddam Hussein's son, Udai, and were captured by the 3rd Infantry Division during the fall of Baghdad. Shortly after that, six cubs were born, bringing the total number of lions under Army control to nine.

The cats had been kept in a 33-by-66 cage at Forward Operating Base Warrior, home to the Arkansas National Guard's 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, in the International Zone, former-

ly called the Green Zone, of central Baghdad.

"They're all in good condition, all things considered," said Baghdad Zoo veterinarian Brendan Whittington-Jones. "They would just be better off in the zoo where

they can get the proper care."

On the day of the move, pairs of cats were tranquilized by zoo veterinarians.

Once asleep, they had their paws taped together, bags put over their heads and were then carried on Army litters into armored Humvees for the brief drive to the zoo.

The cubs each weighed about 200 pounds, with the adult male — named Prince Brutus — much larger than that. Brutus was taken to the zoo in the back of a Ford F-250.

"We don't know too much about the three adult lions," said Whittington-Jones, a South Afri-



PHOTOS BY JOHN QUEEN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Above left: 1st Lt. Gordon Gregson of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, kneels next to a sedated Prince Brutus before the lion was taken to the zoo. Above right: A lion yawns at Baghdad's Forward Operating Base Warrior before being transported to the Baghdad Zoo. Members of the Army's 425th Civil Affairs Battalion recently moved nine lions to the zoo.

ca native. "The male, Brutus, came from a Russian circus in 1998.

"Zina and Heather, the two lionesses, were probably some kind of pet because they have been de-clawed," he said.

At the zoo they were carried into their new home, a 165-by-165 pen paid for by the 1st Cavalry Division. Financial support also came from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, Whitting-

ton-Jones told Army officials.

The lions' new enclosure has plenty of room, with trees, vegetation and low metal platforms for the nine cats to climb on and explore.

"It's good for them to stay together as a family," Whittington-Jones said. "They're social animals."

The move has drawn mixed feelings from soldiers at Forward Operating Base Warrior.

"Their home now is six times bigger than what they had here," said 1st Lt. Gordon Gregson of the 1-153rd's Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "It's cleaner, cooler and much nicer."

But, he said, that doesn't take away a feeling of loss. "I look at our babies' empty room and get that sad feeling," Gregson said. "It's like our babies have gone to college. It's one of those 'Born Free' stories. They'll be missed."

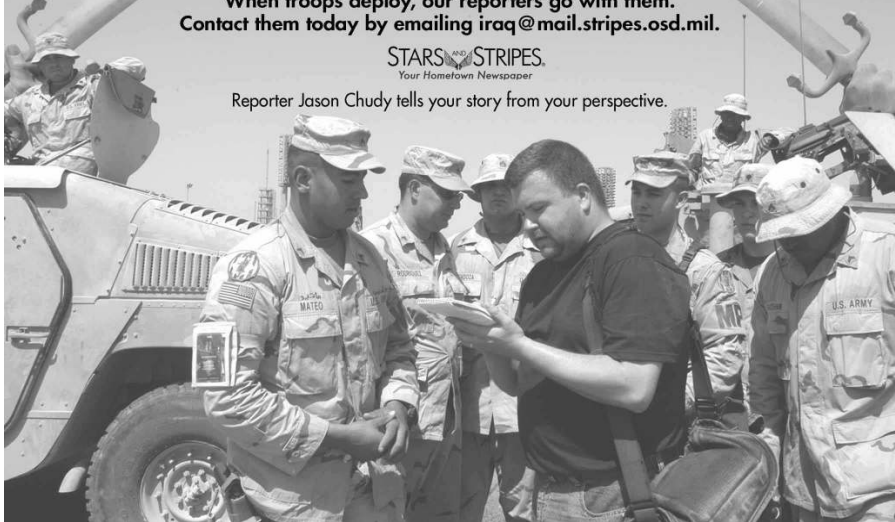
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Pfc. Lyndie England, center, arrives at a military court at Fort Bragg, N.C., on Tuesday for the beginning of her Article 32 hearing, with two unidentified women. England is accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners and creating lewd photos. She faces up to 38 years in prison if convicted of all charges.

Witness: England often sneaked into prison 'hard site'

BY ESTES THOMPSON

The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Pfc. Lyndie England was often sloppy at her paperwork job at Abu Ghraib prison because of illicit, late-night visits to the part of the facility where Iraqi detainees were abused, her supervisor testified Wednesday.

The testimony by Spc. Matthew Bolinger at a pretrial hearing continued the government's theme of portraying England as one of a handful of out-of-control Army reservists who took it upon themselves to photograph prisoners in humiliating poses.

Bolinger said England was reportedly disciplined for sneaking into the prison's secure "hard site" to visit her boyfriend, Spc. Charles A. Graner Jr., who is also charged in the case and is the father of the child England is carrying.

"Her performance was not so good," Bolinger said. "She was sneaking out in the middle of the night, going to the hard site."

Bolinger said England was disciplined after being caught in bed several times with Graner beginning in July 2003. He said authorities tried several different punishments to get her away from Graner and his part of the prison, including restricting her to her quarters and requiring that she be escorted any time she left the unit's headquarters building.

Bolinger, who supervised England in her job processing prison paperwork, testified by phone from Fort Lee, Va., where the 372nd Military Police Company, based on Cresapstown, Md., is stationed after returning from Iraq.

The Article 32 hearing, expected to last through the week, will determine whether a court-martial goes forward against England on 13 counts of abusing detainees and

six counts stemming from possession of sexually explicit photos. The maximum possible sentence is 38 years in prison.

England is one of seven reservists from the 372nd who have been charged in the scandal.

Graner, 35, faces adultery charges for allegedly having sex with England last October. England's lawyers have said she is seven months pregnant with Graner's child.

After missing part of the hearing's opening day because of a visit with her doctor, England was back in court Wednesday. The 21-year-old reservist from Fort Ashby, W.Va., wore a woodland camouflage uniform that is specially tailored for pregnant soldiers.

On Tuesday, prosecutors focused on rebutting a defense claim that England appeared in the photos mocking detainees because she was following orders from higher-ups to "loosen up" prisoners for questioning.

Army investigators testified that the naked detainees shown with England in human pyramids and tethered to a leash were common criminals of little or no value to interrogators, abused primarily for amusement.

Investigator Paul Arthur testified that when he interviewed England about the photos three months before they became public, she told him they were taken while "they were joking around, having some fun, during the night shift."

Arthur said he believed the reservists from the 372nd were responding to the stress of being in a war zone. Just before the pictures were taken in October 2003, there had been a prison riot and some soldiers had been injured.

Defense attorney Rick Hemandez contends the government is trying to shift its responsibility to a lowly private for a scandal that has stirred outrage in the Arab world.

Germany may help train Iraqi soldiers in the UAE

The Associated Press

BERLIN — The German government said Tuesday it is considering assisting the training of Iraqi soldiers in the United Arab Emirates and also is weighing supplying 100 trucks to Iraq's armed forces.

Germany already is helping train members of a new Iraqi police force in the UAE. In a statement, the government said it has held initial talks with Iraq and the Emirates about possible help in training the Iraqi military there.

Berlin is weighing supplying 100 used trucks from Bundeswehr stocks to the Iraqi military, it said. It also is weighing possible help in training Iraqi soldiers on truck repair, pioneer work such as building bridges and roads, and disposal of explosives.

Talks on a German contribution will continue at "expert level," the government statement said, adding that helping train Iraqis in Germany also is a possibility. It did not specify when any decisions might be made.

Germany strongly opposed last year's U.S.-led war in Iraq, and officials repeatedly have said that Berlin won't deploy troops in the country. However, Germany has been assisting with humanitarian aid as well as helping train police officers.

At a summit in June, NATO leaders offered military training to the new Iraqi government.

However, France and Germany rejected the U.S. notion that an alliance training mission could develop into a NATO presence in Iraq and insisted that any training must be outside the country.

Saddam talks with Red Cross team

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Saddam Hussein went a new message to his family and conversed at length with a visiting team from the international Red Cross at the end of July, a spokeswoman for the humanitarian organization said Wednesday.

The team, which included a doctor, met with the former Iraqi president during a routine visit Friday to about 100 "high-value detainees" at a prison in Iraq, said Nada Doumani, spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Speaking in a telephone interview from Amman, Jordan, Doumani declined to comment on Saddam's health or about reports that he suffers from a chronic infection of the prostate or that he has suffered a stroke.

But she said the team "stayed for a long time" and "could talk to him at length." That would indicate that he was able to converse for a considerable time, unlikely for someone who has suffered a stroke.

Doumani said the ICRC had delivered three let-

ters to Saddam's family this week and that the messages had first been in the hands of Iraqi authorities for censorship.

Doumani declined to disclose details of the latest message or to which family member it was addressed.

It was the ICRC's fourth visit to Saddam since he was arrested by U.S. forces in December, which puts him on a par with other detainees who receive visits every six to eight weeks, Doumani said. The previous visit to him was in mid-June.

"We don't want to make it an exceptional measure for him," she said, noting that the team was at the prison where Saddam is being held last Thursday to Sunday and saw other detainees.

"It's not any kind of privileged treatment," Doumani said.

Doumani refused to disclose where Saddam is being held, but Iraqi Human Rights Minister Bakhtiar Amin said Monday that the former president is being held at Camp Cropper at Baghdad International Airport. Amin said Saddam was in good health and that doctors at the prison were seeing him twice a day.

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Official: More time needed to count troop ballots

BY ERICA WERNER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thousands of votes from U.S. troops overseas could go uncounted again in November without emergency legislation extending deadlines for the ballots, a Chicago election official warned President George W.

Bush in a letter Tuesday.

Nearly 30 percent of military voters who requested ballots in 2000 didn't get them in time to vote.

Theresa M. Petrone, a Democratic member of Chicago's three-person Board of Election Commissioners, told Bush the

problem could be solved if he proposed emergency legislation giving election officials up to 14 days after Election Day to collect and count ballots.

Deadlines vary, but most states, including Illinois, require that ballots be received by Election Day.

Other states, including Ohio and Florida, could then be up to 15 or more days later, as long as they were signed by Election Day.

"Every election cycle, election authorities such as Chicago receive military absentee ballots days or even weeks after the deadline, thus disqualifying these votes from being included in the election tally," Petrone wrote.

"With hundreds of thousands of military personnel serving overseas, the voting bloc obviously could determine the outcome of our next presidential election."

White House spokesman Ken Lisaus declined to comment, saying he hadn't seen the letter. Congressional leaders have opposed amending the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and such emergency legislation is unlikely before November.

The handling of military ballots was a major issue in the ballot recount in Florida in 2000 that led to Bush's victory, when election officials rejected hundreds of military absentee ballots, many because they lacked postmarks or signatures.

With many more troops overseas now because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, military voting could be an even bigger issue this year.

Some 250,000 absentee ballot request forms were sent to military personnel overseas who asked for them in 2000, while 340,000 already had been sent as of mid-July for the Nov. 2 election, said Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Joe Richard.

Critics have accused the Pentagon of doing little to improve systems for getting ballots to and from servicemen.

A report by the Defense Department's inspector general in April said problems hadn't been fixed, and a required study by a new voting commission on getting ballots to military and other overseas voters is overdue.

Still, Richard said the military is working to raise awareness among troops and improve methods by the U.S. Postal Service.

"I can only tell you that the secretary of defense and senior leadership of the Defense Department, certainly all the services, have made a concentrated effort to ensure that some of the difficulties that were experienced in

2000, primarily with delivery of ballots, will not recur," he said.

N.M. National Guard sets the standards for combat training in Iraq

BY RICHARD BENKE

The Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. — Two Humvees speed across a muddy prison yard followed by a Black Hawk helicopter that hovers just long enough for 10 soldiers to rappel down and rush into a cellblock.

The whole scene takes just seconds. Behind the old prison's razor wire, another action-adventure scene steals the attention of Maj. Gen. Roger Lempe, commander of the Nebraska National Guard. The New Mexico National Guard is reshaping national training standards.

Lempe is one of 23 National Guard commanding generals and top soldiers from Hawaii and other states visiting the now-closed old maximum-security prison at Santa Fe to view New Mexico National Guard exercises.

Here, the National Guard leaders are learning how New Mexico Guard personnel have avoided death during the current conflict in Iraq. Ten other states also have zero Guard deaths — Hawaii, Alaska, Montana, Nevada, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Minnesota, Kansas and Texas, Guard spokesman Tom Koch says.

"Survivability" is one of three keys to New Mexico's continually updated combat training, said Lt. Col. Kevin Reece, a Special Forces "Green Beret" from Fort Bragg, N.C., who is New Mexico's senior Army adviser and training consultant.

The other two keys are urban combat and advanced weapons training. Reece and others said

they believe the program is the first of its kind but likely to be adopted nationwide soon.

On Monday, the generals saw:

- Convoy strategies for when drivers are killed or disabled
- Checkpoint strategies for stopping vehicles that may contain explosives.
- Live-fire training with M-16s and 9mm pistols, including on-the-run target exercises and weapons safety drills.
- Hand-to-hand combat with pistols and paddles.
- Rappelling from rooftops as well as from helicopters.
- Use of flashbang explosives and drone bomb detectors in securing buildings.

The host was New Mexico Adj. Gen. Kenny Montoya, who has predicted that New Mexico's vision for combat training would become the national norm.

The training is carried out under Reece and 1st Sgt. Jason Riley with a 25-member training company whose mission is "to prepare our forces both for combat overseas and for support of urban operations here in the event of a heightened security alert for terrorism," Reece said.

After viewing the program Lempe agreed it's where the military needs to go.

The Iraqis are "actually aggressing our transporters, our maintenance people, more than they are the infantry," said Sgt. Maj. John Leonard of the National Guard Bureau in the Pentagon.

So new transportation units get better weapons and the requisite training to become "gunfighters," as Riley says.



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An electronic edge on the battlefield

Devices track troops' movement, weapon use in combat training

By LISA HORN
Stars and Stripes

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria — "We've got Morelli down and enemy on the perimeter," Pfc. Leilani Silo shouted into the radio phone on her shoulder.

"I think I'm dead," said Capt. Shane Morelli said into a speaker attached to his regular gear. After a roadside bomb hit Morelli's five-car convoy, members of the 18th Engineer Brigade's Headquarters, Headquarters Company and the 44th Signal Company dodged bullets.

Sergeants barked orders urging their soldiers to maintain "360-degree security."

The incident was part of a convoy situational training exercise at Bulwark '04. While Morelli was really unharmed, the soldiers took the training very seriously. Their fellow troops down range are experiencing — and dying from — makeshift bomb attacks every day.

The speaker Morelli was wearing is part of a Deployable Instrumental Systems in Europe vest, or DISE, a Global Positioning System device that tracks soldiers, weaponry and vehicles during training.

Currently, 3,093 soldiers, 1,256 vehicles and more than 100 tanks, rocket systems and helicopters are using DISE, said Capt. Chris Ellis, operations officer for the 7th Army Training Command's out-of-sector training branch.

The DISE system has been used in Operation Enduring Freedom predeployment training for the 1st Armored and 1st Infantry divisions. Troops from Scandinavia, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Czech Republic and, now, Bulgaria have incorporated DISE into their training.

The system helps make training more realistic with audio cues that come from the vest's speaker to tell a soldier if he or she has been injured and how badly, Ellis said.

In addition to the vest, a soldier wears a band with sensors around the helmet. A laser transmitter is mounted on each weapon

to record the soldier's location and firing.

If a soldier is killed or has a severe injury that would prevent him from firing a weapon in a real war, the system records this and renders the weapon inoperable.

"Now, if his buddy were to pick up that weapon, the system would recognize that somebody else is firing that weapon and would begin to fire again," Ellis said.

"It's similar to a Laser Tag setup," said Sgt. 1st Class William Benda, 7th ATC observer/controller.

The recorded information is linked to a satellite and sent to antennae at the training area. The antennae transmit the information to the brains behind the operation — the command-and-control console.

"We've got five communication antennae out there and are instrumenting three different training exercises simultaneously," said Les Mitchell, marketing manager for Saab, the manufacturer of DISE.

After the series of scenarios has ceased hours later, the dog-fight soldiers regrouped with observer/controllers and commanders for an after-action review, complete with instant replay highlighting the action of the day.

The soldiers seem to like the system.

"I've learned a lot," said SPC. Michael Southworth, an infantryman with Company A, 130th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard. "Doing training like this for the past five days has definitely made me more confident."

Southworth said the training has made the whole unit better.

"I saw vast improvement from day one to day five," he said. "After this training, if I was to go [to Iraq], I'd definitely be more confident of myself and my comrades."

But the training does not stop there. The 7th ATC provides each unit with a compact disc of the entire exercise to re-examine months down the line.

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Sgt. Mikal Washington, top, and Pvt. Robin Bivens of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion of the 130th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard look for targets around a corner of a building during a Military Operations on Urban Terrain exercise Sunday at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria. The two soldiers are wearing DISE gear, a Global Positioning System used to track soldiers, weaponry and vehicles during training scenarios.

LISA HORN
Stars and Stripes



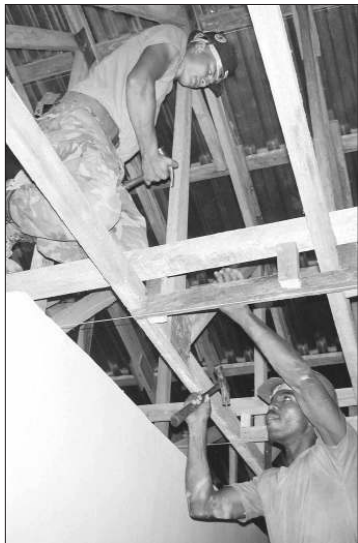
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LILY DANIELS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jacob Byrne, left, of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74, and Cpl. Kpeli Victor, of the Ghanaian 49th Engineer Battalion, work on the ceiling at the Haasto Medical Clinic near Accra, Ghana, earlier this year. The Haasto Medical Clinic, completed in June, provides services to underprivileged women and children in Ghana. Since January, Battalion 74 sailors and officers worked on projects in western Iraq, Sicily, Crete, Ghana and Croatia, as well as Rota.

Well-traveled Seabees prepared to depart Rota

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Seabees with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 are packing up and heading home next week after seven months of work on three continents.

The Gulfport, Miss.-based battalion arrived in Rota in January for a scheduled seven-month deployment, but the majority of the roughly 1,000 sailors and officers were sent to work on various construction projects in western Iraq, Sicily, Crete, Ghana and Croatia.

Seabees working in and around the contentious Iraqi city of Fallujah have withstood mortar attacks and roadside bombs to help with the reconstruction.

"And they're holding up great," Lt. Cmdr. John Kliem, battalion executive officer said from the unit's temporary headquarters at Camp Mitchell in Rota. "It's not slowing down as we move out."

The battalion will be replaced next week by the Port Hueneme, Calif.-based Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4. Navy construction battalions rotate in and out of Rota about every six or seven months.

In the past, battalions deployed to southern Spain have focused on construction projects in the Mediterranean Sea region. But the war in Iraq and the push to develop small forward operating bases in



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Stephen Monsees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 dumps a pile into a concrete mixer at Naval Station Rota, Spain, on Tuesday.

Africa have splintered the battalion's companies across the globe.

Some of their work included:

- Cleaning up the war-torn Fallujah area of such things as empty shell casings and broken guardrails along the roadways.

- Building a security fence in Sigmogna, Sicily.

- Constructing a warehouse, living quarters and operations center at a base in Accra, Ghana. The 42-member team also built a medical clinic and a playground in cities near the base, which could be used as a launch pad for future missions.

- Building a pipeline for the first ever running water to about 6,000 people in a Croatian town.

Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Fellows, 34, of Bemis Point, N.Y., was part of the group that went to Ghana. He was surprised by the welcome the Seabees received.

"When we drove by, they would yell, 'America! America!'" Fellows said.

Sailors returned the favor by chipping in their own money to pay for uniforms and soccer balls for area children.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Samuel Webster, 26, of Glenford, Ohio, who helped build a warehouse for Naval Special Warfare Unit 10 in Rota, said battalion members are ready to turn everything over to their replacements, so they can "make a smooth turn."

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.strips.osd.mil

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support



Greetings Guys! I just wanted to let ALL of you know how proud you make me and many other Americans. I have always admired the Marine Corps for all it stands for and all you, the men and women have done over the years for this country.

I appreciate and admire every one of you. My father was in the corps and has since retired, yet once a Marine always a Marine. He is still proud of the corps, and still reads the gazette. Now he works at Boeing, and has a very important job there. The Marines is a great place for brave, smart, and strong individuals such as yourselves. For even long after you have retired, you will have the wisdom, and the heart that one could never have otherwise. The service you give our country now is seen long after you have left the Corps. My husband and I lovingly argue about who is tougher (his Dad was Army) the Corps, or the Army. Yet it is in fun, because he, too, knows the sacrifice only the Marines can understand. He attended the Citadel military college, and knows more about the Marines than most other civilians, or kids of Army guys. Not to dis the Army, they also serve our country and sacrifice much, but the Marines are special. And all of you know this. You are elite, you are very brave, and you are my heroes. I pray for you to be safe, vigilant, and wise during these times. I also pray for your families at home who are likely praying along with me and many other Americans. What you are doing now is what is ordered, and it is a noble cause. I understand there will be times of sadness and heartache, and there will be feelings of guilt and doubt. Always remember, we are at war. In times of war, men and women must do what they must do to survive, and to complete a mission.

For God and for Country, you are where you are. We appreciate your service.

God is with you, and so are the thoughts and prayers of many Americans.

Again, thank you from the heart!

Sincerely, E. Malabey. St. Louis, Mo.

Good, safe fun



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Kids of all ages enjoy a balloon race as part of festivities for National Night Out in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Tuesday. National Night Out is a program started in the States that is designed to support anti-crime initiatives and strengthen relationships between the community and local law enforcement.

Keflavik home to Pararescuemen of the Year

U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials have named the recipients of the 2003 Pararescuemen of the Year awards.

The Pararescuemen program recognizes excellence in primary duties, significant accomplishments and other contributions to the unit mission, according to a USAFE news release.

Staff Sgt. Michael Herrera, of Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland, was the recipient in the airman category, while Tech. Sgt. Douglas Isaacs, also of Keflavik, was recipient in the noncommissioned officer category.

From staff reports

USAFE proves you can take it with you

Software deal offers inexpensive copies of Microsoft Office for home computers

BY MARNI MCENTEE
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — U.S. Air Forces in Europe employees will find it easier to take their work home thanks to a sweetheart deal with the command's software provider.

The deal allows eligible USAFE users to get a licensed copy of Microsoft Office 2003 applications to install on their home computer for a fraction of the retail price, said Master Sgt. Paddy Amund, USAFE software manager.

The Software Assurance benefit, called the Home Use Program, allows users to buy the software that normally would cost about \$500 for about \$20, Amund said.

"They've got the same copy of software at home that they're using at the office, and they'll have no problems with compatibility or converting files," said Anne Smith, USAFE's assistant command software license manager.

"At a great price," Amund added.

More than 30,000 people in USAFE are eligible for the bene-

fit, Smith said. As of Tuesday, about 1,365 had taken advantage of it.

The software under the agreement includes MS Office XP or MS Office 2003, which includes Word, Outlook, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and Access applications.

In addition, employees can download anti-virus programs for free, Smith said, which will help protect office systems from any viruses users may be susceptible to on their home computers.

The software agreement also gives USAFE members the opportunity to add upgrades to their systems as they become available, she said. Prices will vary on those upgrades.

Anne Smith
USAFE's assistant command
software license manager

In order to take advantage of the benefit, users must log onto the Air Force portal and follow the ordering instructions located under My Workspace. My Work, USAFE Enterprise Software Management, USAFE officials said.

The \$20 fee covers shipping and handling. For employees without APO addresses, additional fees may apply.

E-mail Marni McEntee at: mcentee@mail.strips.osd.mil

Four Gitmo prisoners shun military review

BY IAN JAMES

The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Four Guantanamo Bay prisoners have refused to participate in U.S. military review hearings, leaving a panel of officers to examine the cases without testimony from the detainees, military officials said Wednesday.

"That news was confirmed as Navy Secretary Gordon England was to visit the naval base to observe the review hearings, called to examine the status of hundreds of terror suspects held at the prison and to determine whether they should remain in detention.

Four detainees — two from Yemen, one from Saudi Arabia and one from Morocco — whose cases came up Monday and Tuesday "chose not to participate in the process," said Cmdr. Beci Brenton, a Navy spokeswoman.

"These are just four detainees who have historically not cooper-

ated," Brenton said. "They've not interacted with investigators."

A 49-year-old Yemeni was captured in battle with an AK-47 automatic rifle, Brenton said, while a 24-year-old Yemeni is accused of being a Taliban member with links to al-Qaida.

The 29-year-old Saudi fought in Afghanistan and later was captured in Pakistan, Brenton said. The Moroccan, 32, allegedly was a Taliban fighter captured by the Northern Alliance.

Two other detainees — a 24-year-old Algerian and a 24-year-old Yemeni — went before the review panel Friday and Saturday, and the second one summoned a fellow detainee as a witness, Brenton said.

Recommendations by the three-member military panel have yet to be announced. Reporters will be allowed inside hearings starting Thursday, but the military says it will close portions deemed classified. Reporters are not allowed to name any prisoners.

Long way to go

The Navy released the following demographic information, pulled from the second quarter in 2004 (ending in June), which shows the ethnic makeup of its leadership ranks, both commissioned and enlisted. The ethnic breakdown is for both men and women.

	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	American Indian/ Alaska native	More than one ethnicity	Asian	Philipino	Hawaiian
Flag officers	222	210	8	2	1	1	0	0	0
Captains	3,715	3,362	140	71	6	82	38	15	1
Commanders	7,813	6,773	323	245	21	219	141	89	2
E-9s	3,681	2,654	349	125	14	251	73	213	2
E-8s	7,608	5,235	919	348	26	337	322	413	8
E-7s	28,723	17,900	4,340	1,672	138	1,100	1,678	1,861	34

Source: Bureau of Naval Personnel

Stars and Stripes

Putting emphasis on diversity

Navy to partner with black and women's colleges

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — It's not enough to think about diversity only during Black History Month or Hispanic Heritage Month, said Syd Abernathy, the architect of the Navy's new Diversity Directorate.

"We need to talk about this issue all the time, in other than the 'heritage months,'" said Abernathy, who for more than a year has worked to change the Navy's program aimed at attracting a more diverse population, especially at the upper echelons.

"I see a lack of representation at the senior enlisted ranks and senior officer ranks; and unlike the [civilian world] where we could hire from one company or another, in the military, we have to grow our own," Abernathy said.

He doesn't know exactly what has led to that lack of representation.

"That's something we have to look at, to study. We need to... help leadership understand how to attract and keep a diverse population," said Abernathy, 46, who leaves the post in September to go to school before becoming the commanding officer of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., early next year.

So why, decides after Martin Luther King Jr.,

after the civil rights and equal rights movements, is the Navy still talking about the need to improve diversification?

"The Navy is a very large organization and this is a big change, and it takes a lot of time to change people's mind-set," said Cmdr. John Hefti, 40, the incoming directorate leader. "Also, it hasn't been the focus to make it an integral part of operational readiness."

To better diversify the Navy, the newly named Diversity Directorate office, which until Monday was the Minority Affairs Office, is creating partnerships with predominantly black and women's colleges and universities, and studying diversity programs in the civilian sector to see what works and what doesn't, said Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing, Chief of Naval Personnel.

The name change doesn't mean the Navy is looking to diversify in terms of race, ethnicity and sex only, Abernathy said. The service also wants "creative and innovative sailors," those who will think out of the box, he said.

It's what Hoewing calls "putting the follow-through to the golf swing."

"How do we get distance and accuracy? It's in the follow-through."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontz@strips.osd.mil



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IN THE STATES



Robyn Luster, left, and Barb Ide return to an pro-Amendment 2 campaign party Tuesday in St. Louis. Missouri voters overwhelmingly supported a constitutional amendment Tuesday to ban gay marriage.

Missouri voters back ban on gay marriage

The Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri voters solidly endorsed a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, a decision that was closely watched by national groups on both sides of the battle.

With nearly all precincts reporting, the amendment had garnered 71 percent of the vote, according to unofficial results for Tuesday's vote.

It was the first such vote since the historic ruling in Massachusetts last year that legalized same-sex weddings there.

Although the ban was widely expected to pass in conservative Missouri, experts said the campaign served as a key barometer for which strategies work as at least one other state, and perhaps as many as 12, vote on similar amendments this year.

Missouri and 37 other states already have laws defining marriage as only between a man and a woman. But amendment supporters fear a court could toss aside the state law, and they be-

lieve the state would be on firmer legal ground if an outright ban is part of the Constitution.

"I'm very gratified and encouraged and thankful that the people of this state understand our current policy's a wise public policy and they want to see it protected from a legal challenge," said Vicki Hartzler, a spokeswoman for the Coalition to Protect Marriage in Missouri.

Opponents said the amendment was unnecessary and discriminatory, but knew they faced an uphill battle in Missouri.

"We're already reaching out to these other states, sharing with them what we learned, what worked, what didn't work, and we'll move on," said Doug Gray, campaign manager for the Constitution Defense League. "Ultimately we're right and they're simply wrong."

Louisiana residents are to vote on a marriage amendment Sept. 18. Then Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah are to vote on the issue Nov. 2.

Bush, Kerry go after the vote in Iowa town

The Associated Press

DAVENPORT, Iowa — President Bush and rival John Kerry campaigned Wednesday in the same crucially important Iowa town, with the president predicting he will win in November because his administration has improved the economy and bolstered national security.

"The other folks talk a good game. We deliver," the president told thousands of cheering supporters on the banks of the Mississippi River in a state he narrowly lost four years ago.

"This time we're going to carry it," Bush said. Bush and Kerry are in a tight race in Iowa and both candidates are going after voters in Davenport, an area that some political experts say provided Democrat Al Gore the votes he needed to defeat Bush in the state in 2000.

Bush's campaign rally was several blocks away from where Kerry was to hear stories of manufacturing job losses in the state, which have totaled more than 26,000 since Bush took office.

Bush cited the state's relatively low jobless rate, 4.3 percent in June, which has consistently been below the national average, which was 5.6 percent in June. He said that since his presidency began, he has opened up markets overseas for Iowa farmers and has lowered their taxes.

"I have made the success of Iowa farmers and

By TED BRIDIS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal investigators are poring over the trove of documents and photographs that led to this week's urgent terror warnings, but intelligence agencies have been unable to reach a consensus on whether the information reflects a defunct or ongoing plot.

The information, recovered in Pakistan, led the Bush administration to issue its most targeted warning, saying a total of five financial institutions in New York, Washington and Newark, N.J., were potential targets.

One federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity Tuesday because parts of the investigation are classified, said investigators have yet to determine the full breadth of the plot.

The lack of specifics on the timing has led critics to question whether the administration overreacted. However, on Wednesday, the Bush administration said a new stream of intelligence has surfaced indicating al-Qaida wants to strike financial institutions.

There's another new stream of intelligence that came to our attention on Friday as well and I can't go further into it because, could compromise some ongoing operations," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

A senior Justice Department official said the information was based on human intelligence from someone other than two recently captured terror suspects in Pakistan who provided information that led to the warning issued Sunday. The intelligence did not specify when such an attack might be planned, the official said, speaking only on condition of anonymity.

A senior law enforcement official

also spoke on condition of anonymity said the other intelligence was separate from computer information recovered during the arrest of one of the suspects in Pakistan but declined to characterize it otherwise, saying it was highly classified.

Some of the information seized about the surveillance of five financial buildings was as much as four years old. But the Bush administration maintains it was essential to alert the public as soon as it was found because al-Qaida planning sometimes precedes actual attacks by as much as five years.

Counterterrorism experts believe planning for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks began in 1996. They also believe a terror suspect photographed American government buildings in Nairobi, Kenya, and drew sketches of potential targets for Osama bin Laden in 1993 — long before al-Qaida detonated a truck bomb in August 1998 near the U.S. Embassy, killing 257.

Law enforcement and intelligence officials said some computer images of the surveillance by al-Qaida in the United States had been changed as recently as January, although one official explained that investigators can't determine whether something was added or how else the image might have been modified.

Many of the paper documents recovered were not dated, so analysts worked backward trying to match particular descriptions of security at these financial buildings with a particular moment in time, to determine when the observations were made.

"There is physical descriptive data that might let them date some of this," the law enforcement official said.

The FBI is monitoring suspected al-Qaida operatives and members of two allied terror groups in the New York City area, the top-ranking FBI official in New York said Tuesday.

Pasquale D'Amuro, head New York office and a veteran terrorism investigator, said the individuals under scrutiny include people linked to al-Qaida as well as Ansar al-Islam and the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, the New York Daily News reported.

The warnings prompted authorities to raise the terror alert level in those cities to a high level. Police closed streets, erected barricades and dispatched heavily armed officers to patrol potential targets.

Federal investigators are working on the assumption that the plot is continuing.

Associated Press Writer Katherine Pflieger Shrader contributed to this report.



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IN THE WORLD

Victim recounts hotel bombing

Man recalls confrontation with Muslim militants months after Indonesian blast

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Febby Firmansyah suffered horrific burns in the suicide bombing of Jakarta's J.W. Marriott hotel a year ago. But he told two militants accused of planning the attack that he forgave them, and then confronted them — Muslim to Muslim — on the error of their ways.

"I asked them what they were thinking," Firmansyah said of his emotional meeting with the suspects at police headquarters earlier this year. "There is nothing in the al-Quran that tells people to kill other believers."

"They said they did it for Jihad [Indonesia] ... to cleanse of Americans. I said Jihad is not like that," the 27-year-old oil worker said.

Twelve people were killed and more than 100 wounded in the Aug. 5

attack on the U.S.-owned hotel, a tragedy whose year anniversary will be remembered Thursday. The strike was blamed on the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah, also accused in the 2002 attacks on Indonesia's resort is-

land of Bali that killed 202 people. Firmansyah's willingness to take on the attackers is unusual in the world's most populous Muslim nation. Authorities have arrested and convicted scores of militants since 2001, but government ministers and religious leaders are unwilling to outlaw Jemaah Islamiyah or acknowledge that Muslims are often the victims of Islamic terrorism.

While most of the victims in the Bali blasts were foreign tourists, all but one of those killed and the vast majority of the wounded in the Marriott attack were Indonesians — most of them Muslims.

Some analysts have said the high Muslim death toll caused a split within Jemaah Islamiyah over the morality of attacking soft targets like shopping malls and hotels.

The hotel's ground-floor restaurant was packed when the suicide bomber drove up to the lobby and detonated his vehicle.

Another victim, Anie Rachmayani, was eating lunch when she heard a boom and saw a massive fireball rush toward her. The 30-year-old marketing manager was out of work for three months with burns and shrapnel injuries.

"Execution (for the bombers) is not fair," Rachmayani said over lunch in the restaurant that was attacked. "They should have to feel the same things as us. They should be injured."

The overwhelming majority of



Emergency workers run past the Marriott Hotel shortly after a car bomb went off on Aug. 5, 2003, in Jakarta, Indonesia. Twelve people were killed and more than 100 injured in the Aug. 5 attack on the U.S.-owned hotel, which will be commemorated Thursday.

Indonesians are moderate, and Washington considers Indonesia a key ally in the war on terrorism and an example of a modern Muslim-majority democracy. The two presidential candidates in September's run-off election are secular nationalists who have spoken out on the need to crack down on terrorists.

Police have arrested at least 14 militants over the Marriott bombings, and there have been no other similar attacks in the sprawling tropical archipelago.

Security throughout Jakarta has been tightened. Guards at hotels, embassies and shopping malls check the trunk and underside of every car that enters. Many building owners have redesigned their entrances to deter attackers.

Firmansyah suffered second-degree burns across more than half his body, and spent much of his three months in hospital in isolation to protect his exposed flesh from infection.

He's now back at work in an office overlooking the hotel.

EU OKs aid for forgotten Asia crises

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union's head office on Wednesday adopted aid packages worth for what it called "forgotten" crises in Nepal, India, East Timor and Indonesia.

The European Commission said the money includes \$2.4 million to help feed 100,000 Bhutanese refugees in south-eastern Nepal and provide primary and mental health care and support to about 100,000 people affected by the conflict in India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

The rest will help address lingering malnutrition in East Timor following two years of drought and basic needs for about 500,000 people displaced by conflicts in Indonesian regions of Aceh, Ambon and Central Sulawesi.

"These funds will make a real difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable people living in crisis situations in Asia," said Poul Nielson, commissioner for development and humanitarian aid.

"Although their plight is rarely featured in the media, they have as much right to humanitarian aid as people living in more high-profile crises," Nielson said.

EDUCATION FOCUS

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A monthly section on Distance Learning and other educational opportunities targeting overseas military and their families.

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If you're interested in continuing your education while you serve your country refer to this monthly section because Education is our Focus. Publishes the last Sunday of each month. Your Hometown Newspaper



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British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon greets local women in Gibraltar on Wednesday. Hoon is in Gibraltar for celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the territory's capture by Britain.

Gibraltar marks its 300th anniversary as a British colony

By RAUL DIAZ
The Associated Press

GIBRALTAR — Thousands in Gibraltar linked hands Wednesday to create a human chain around the tiny British colony at the tip of the Iberian peninsula, celebrating the 300th anniversary of the territory's capture by Britain.

The chain was an unmistakable political statement to the colony's neighbors in Spain, which lost the deep-sea harbor and strategic naval base on Aug. 4, 1704, and has yearned to recover it ever since.

"We've been here about 300 years. We own 'the Rock,'" said Lillian Carroll, a 60-year-old resident, referring to the popular nickname for Gibraltar, a promontory jutting up from the Mediterranean Sea near the narrow strait the separates Europe from Africa.

Some 12,000 people turned out to create the chain around Gibraltar's square.

Gibraltar's government declared the day a national holiday called the Day of Freedom.

Later, the House of the Assembly, Gibraltar's parliament, presented the Freedom of the City

award to the Royal Navy, which deployed the frigate HMS Grafton to Gibraltar for the celebrations.

The presence of Britain's Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon at the celebrations stirred resentment in Spain, and Spanish officials have repeatedly lodged protests with the British ambassador in Madrid.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero called Gibraltar's anniversary celebrations inappropriate but stressing the need for dialogue to resolve the centuries-old dispute.

But Gibraltar's chief minister, Peter Gatt, said the celebrations were not meant to snub Spain's new government.

Britain was ceded formal control of Gibraltar by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, and its current position is that no change of the colony's status can be negotiated with Spain unless Gibraltar residents agree.

That's not likely anytime soon. A proposal for joint Spanish-British sovereignty of the territory fell through in 2002 after nearly 99 percent of Gibraltar voters rejected the idea in a nonbinding referendum.

Pilot project extended for Frankfurt airport

The Associated Press

BERLIN — The German government on Wednesday extended a pilot project at Frankfurt airport that uses iris-recognition technology to allow some travelers to pass through automated passport controls.

The project, launched in February for an initial six months, was intended to give Germany a chance to see how well iris-recognition works. Interior Minister Otto Schily said Wednesday it will run for another 12 months, allowing authorities to improve the technology.

Schily said 8,600 people have been registered to take part in the

project. Passengers using the test system still have to go through regular security controls, but can bypass conventional passport checks on entering and leaving, taking a quick glance at a camera.

The test is part of efforts in many countries to extend the use of biometric technology to track travelers and immigrants, while also cutting down on time spent in line.

Germany passed laws after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that provide for biometric features to be added to passports and personal identity papers. The European Union agreed in March to fast-track the inclusion of biometric data in passports by the end of 2006.

Sewage odor lingering over Belgrade

The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — Police and health authorities sought Wednesday to determine the source of an unusual,

sewage-like odor pervading downtown Belgrade.

"We have not yet identified the source of the pollution, but we have dispatched teams trying to locate it," Milan Milutinovic, the

chief toxicologist for the city's health department said.

Belgrade's sewer system is more than 100 years old and is considered the source of the trouble.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ Good Morning to each of you! I am a 30 year old mother of 2 little angels blessed to my husband and I. I grew up in a military family. My father was in the Air Force and served in Vietnam as well as Desert Storm. With being raised with this background. I am pulling for you all. My brother who just turned 21 recently, has enlisted in the Marines. Finished boot camp 3 months ago. He is heading to AZ for desert training. So, I too have someone dear heading your way. Your strength and courage to tackle the triumphs you are faced with these days is amazing!! And I salute you ALL! Each and every one of you are in my prayers as well as the rest of the world!!! We are forever in your debt... Take care of each other, comfort each other, be positive for each other, AND REMEMBER YOU ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO COME HOME TO REAL SOON!!!
God Bless, T. DeGroot

★ Hello: I am writing to show my support to our wonderful troops who are protecting our great country! May God bless you and keep you safe while you are overseas! A Proud American, C. Mannino

★ To R. Kelly- I just wanted you to know that my thoughts and prayers are with you everyday. There is not a second of the day that goes by that you are not on my mind. Stay safe and know that we love, support and miss you! Much Love-Brandy

★ Maurice M.: I love you so much, I'm praying for your safety and your safe return home. Please be very careful and know that we love you, miss you, are supporting you and praying for you. All My love Always, J. Klubnik

★ I would like to THANK ALL of the Military fighting this war. I pray for you and your families every day. I would like to say a SPECIAL HELLO to FT Campbell's 101st troops. We all miss you around here and we pray that you all come home safe. GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS AND OUR COUNTRY L. G. Earhart

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

★ Dear Nick, Hope you are safe. We think of you daily and pray for you even more. We watch the news just in case you are in camera view! Sarah is going to visit your mom this week. Be safe- Love, Sharon, Art, Sarah & Jess

★ I just wanted to say thank you so much for defending and representing America so well. I truly appreciate the troops' courage and honor, and for this I am proud. Stay strong!

★ We send our love, best wishes, and prayers to you all as you serve our nation. We couldn't be prouder of you, or more grateful for the sacrifices which you and your families are making. We are watching and cheering your progress, and will rejoice when once again you can be at home with us in the greatest nation the earth has ever seen. Warm regards, Judith & Emma Plunkett

★ I just wanted to say that you guys are doing a great job out there. I give all of you great respect and gratitude. Please be careful out there, and stay safe. Frank

★ I love the military but I have never served. I love our great country but have never sacrificed anything of myself for the privileges I receive from her. I suppose I just do not have the cajones. But you do. I know a few of you but am very proud of all of you. I know you are going to win. I know you are going to do whatever it takes. You will do this because you are the true Americans. You are the strong Americans. You are the brave Americans. And you are the right Americans for the job. THANK YOU!! Now, go kick their butts. P. Thomas. Proud American Hillbilly from West Virginia

★ I don't personally know anyone overseas right now, but you are all in my heart. I support you fully and pray for your safe return. You are all brave heroes and I thank you for your actions. You are in my thoughts. J. Sinclair

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Parks are all wet

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire's state parks are having a rough summer, and it may mean some will close early.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard McLeod said parks' revenue was down more than 10 percent when the fiscal year ended June 30, and dropped even further in July, mostly because of rainy weather.

"We are already off 26.2 percent in the first weeks of July, and that's because of the weather," McLeod said.

Even the Flume, in Franconia Notch, the system's biggest money-maker, was down 14 percent for the first half of July.

At Clough State Park in Weare, revenue was cut almost in half, from \$12,033 in the first half of July last year to \$6,816 this year.

Unusual heirloom

OK McALESTER — Some families have heirloom quilts or clocks. Margie Clark plans to pass a shriveled orange to her children.

The shrunken, rock-hard, nearly petrified piece of fruit — it's no longer orange — has been in her family 83 years.

She played with the fruit as a young girl and has heard the story of its origins dozens of times. The orange is older than she is and was a Christmas gift to her father from her aunt in 1921.

Wanting to save the orange for later, her father took it into his room and placed it in a dresser drawer, Clark said. He must have forgotten about it, because when he remembered it, it was no longer edible.

Clark, who said she's nearly 80 now, has no idea this just how long the hardened piece of fruit would endure.

When her father died, the orange came to her. She plans to pass it along to her children.

Unknown candidate

CA SAN BERNARDINO — No one has ever seen or spoken to the Democratic nominee for California's 63rd Assembly District.

Now, the mystery man has dropped out of the race as mysteriously as he joined it.

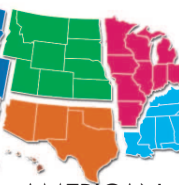
D'Andre McNamee ran unopposed for the Democratic nomination on the March ballot, picking up 16,987 votes. McNamee himself did not vote.

His \$900 filing fee was paid for by the state Democratic Central Committee, the San Bernardino County Sun newspaper reported last week.

But spokesmen for the state and county parties said they have never met McNamee and know little about his candidacy. One official even sent along a Christmas card, which went unanswered.

"Due to family and business concerns, as well as the reality that it will be impossible for a Democrat to win, I am dropping out of the race," McNamee said in a news release. The release was issued by a man claiming to be a friend of his.

The statement said the candidate is 31 and co-owns McNamee Trucking in Ontario. But the company's address is in Rancho Cucamonga, according to the secretary of state's office. Candidacy papers for McNamee say he lives in



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Upland, but no listing was found for the candidate or his company.

McNamee's name will stay on the November ballot, a spokesman for the state party said.

Dibs on domain name

IN INDIANAPOLIS — A Web site with the same name as the Democratic presidential ticket failed to attract the \$150,000 minimum bid its owner wanted at an online auction.

Kerry Edwards, 34, of Indianapolis, registered his kerryedwards.com Web address in March 2002 to post family photographs online.

Interest in the name climbed when John Kerry named John Edwards as his running mate, and Kerry Edwards said he had received offers of up to \$30,000 for the name.

He then decided to try to sell the Web address through Sedo.com, which specializes in selling Internet domain names.

One wild ride

PA NANTICOKE — A helmet would be good, but police said clothes would be a nice start when riding a motorcycle.

A local dentist pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct for driving a motorcycle with a naked woman on the back. The woman faces more serious charges.

Dr. Joseph P. Gronka, 39, was pulled over June 12 when police noticed Lisa Druzdzowski, 39, riding naked on the back of his motorcycle.

Since then, Gronka has paid \$277.50 in court costs and fines.

Gronka declined to comment.

Police said Druzdzowski was belligerent when she was taken into custody and threw a small pipe into her cell toilet, then kicked an officer who tried to prevent her from flushing the toilet.

TV is good for you

TX HOUSTON — An 11-year-old boy who was bitten by a shark off the Gulf of Mexico learned how to fight off the animal — by punching it in the gills — from watching television.

"I was watching TV the day before and I saw that on the Discovery Channel," Aaron Perez said Monday on NBC's "Today" show.

A surgeon at Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital in Houston spent more than four hours reattaching the boy's arm after last weekend's attack.

Chicken-catcher quits

FL KEY WEST — The man hired to rid this resort city of its prolific and unabashed chickens quit his post, saying city leaders were not committed to the cause.

In January, Key West officials agreed to pay Armando Parra Sr. \$20 for each nuisance chicken he caught until Sept. 30. His limit was 900 birds.

Parra, a barber and self-taught bird catcher, had rounded up 542 chickens, a quarter of the estimated population roaming about in the city. But, on July 23, Parra turned in his city-issued traps and said he was going freelance.

"I just thought it was a better idea if I went out on my own," he said.

Parra said the city issued "chicken lists" telling him which poultry to capture. He said the birds' wanderings made his job impossible.

Biden's kitchen blaze

DE WILMINGTON — Lightning struck the home of Sen. Joseph Biden, starting a small fire that was contained to the kitchen.

No one was injured in Sunday's fire, which started amid a storm that caused serious flooding in Pennsylvania and knocked out power to hundreds of Delaware homes and businesses.

Biden is Delaware's senior senator and the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. His wife, Jill, reported the fire, officials said.

School settles lawsuit

HI HONOLULU — A Big Island charter school will re-examine its disciplinary policies and train its faculty on when it is appropriate to search students to settle a lawsuit accusing the principal and his secretary of illegally strip-searching a 15-year-old girl.

The agreement settles a lawsuit against Steve Hiramaki, principal of the Hawaii Academy of Arts and Sciences charter school in Pahoa, and his secretary, Andrea Irvine.

The federal lawsuit was filed on behalf of the student identified as "Jane Doe," and her mother, who said her daughter was forced to remove her clothes after she and two other students — one female, one female — were accused of stealing \$30 from a school van driver on Jan. 30, 2003.



Sit. Good duck A young girl is silhouetted against the waters of Tallahassee's Lake Ella in Florida as she feeds the ducks pieces of bread.



It's more comfortable than it looks A squirrel allows its legs to dangle freely as it lounges on a section of fence in Alexandria, Va.



Perfecting play

Stevie Strickland, 10, receives help from band director Stephen Tarwater on the proper technique of blowing through a clarinet mouthpiece during a summer band class at Charles Stones Intermediate Center in Garden City, Kan.

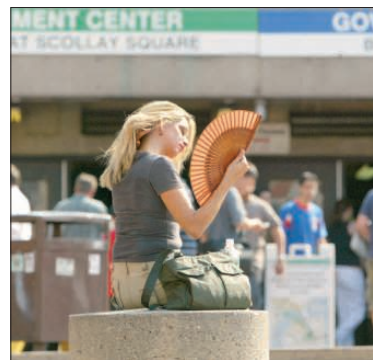


Cruising right along Competitors pass a large boat during a dragon boat race along the Hudson River off Manhattan, N.Y. Teams from around the country and Canada competed in races during the third annual Dragon Boat Race Festival.



Great seats

Visitors to Baltimore's Inner Harbor sit on benches and watch a lightning show as a slow storm front pushes across the area Saturday evening.



The heat is on

Yolanda Cerda of Madrid, Spain, tries to stay cool in front of Boston's Government Center subway station in Boston.



Eye on the sea

Wrightsville Beach lifeguards Grey Liston, left, and Wes Whitaker keep an eye on the swimmers in the waters off Wrightsville Beach, N.C.



Way up there

Motorcycle daredevil "Captain" Robbie Knievel soars over seven vintage aircraft on the flight deck of the USS Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York City to promote a movie chronicling the life of his famous father, Evel Knievel.

Life for officer's death

HI HONOLULU — A man who shot and killed a Honolulu police officer has received the state's harshest penalty — life without parole. Shane Mark, 29, was convicted of second-degree murder for killing Officer Glen Gaspar in March 2003.

Circuit Judge Karen Ahn took Mark's criminal history into consideration, as well as nine felonies he committed during the shooting and another shooting a month earlier.

Border more violent

AZ PHOENIX — As the U.S. Border Patrol steps up surveillance along the Arizona-Mexico border, immigrant smugglers are acting more violently toward agents, officials say.

There have been about the same number of assaults this year as there were at this time in 2003, but the degree of violence is significantly higher. Border Patrol spokesman Andy Adams said.

Adams said the agency has seen dramatic increases in violence involving guns and vehicles. Smugglers have been ramming Border Patrol vehicles with their cars and chasing down agents while driving or on foot.

There also has been a rise in smugglers attacking agents with softball-sized rocks to divert their attention away from border crossings.

"We're not talking about the rocks you throw at the lake or around the neighborhood as a kid," said Border Patrol spokesman Rob Daniels. "We're talking about big honking rocks."

The most serious rock attacks result in agents losing consciousness and blood, and requiring hospital and recovery time.

Air tankers denied work

MT BILLINGS — Federal officials denied requests by two companies to return several large air tankers to service to fight wildfires, saying additional information was needed first on the life of the planes.

Officials lacked information on "operational life limit" of aircraft operated by Neptune Aviation, of Missoula, Mont., and Minden Air Corp., of Minden, Nev., one of the criteria needed to help prove the air tankers' airworthiness, said Rose Davis, a spokeswoman at the National Interagency Fire Center.

If officials received that information, they would reconsider returning the air tankers to service, she said.

Both companies operate planes known as P2Vs, Davis said, and manufacturer Lockheed Martin may have the information available but it is considered proprietary.

Sewage spill kills fish

VT NORTHFIELD — A chemical release by the municipal sewage plant is being blamed for killing a significant number of fish on more than a half-mile stretch of the Dog River.

An infusion of chlorine was accidentally leaked into the river from the sewage treatment plant as work was being done to upgrade the facility's chlorinating system, Northfield Village Manager Charles Morse said.

"We knew we released chlorine, but we didn't detect a problem

until later on," Morse said. "We're upset that we killed fish, obviously; we try to be as environmentally conscious as we can be."

New cattle disease cases

WY CHEYENNE — The infectious cattle disease brucellosis has turned up in a fourth herd in Wyoming — this time in Campbell County in northeastern Wyoming, with no apparent link to the previous cases. Two 11-year-old cows tested positive among a suspect herd of 50 head at a livestock auction in Pierre, S.D.

Brucellosis causes cattle to abort. In the rare cases that humans get it, such as by drinking unpasteurized milk, it causes flu-like symptoms.

Shirt doesn't fly

FL MIAMI — A couple returning home from a Costa Rican vacation was ejected from an American Airlines flight because the man was wearing a T-shirt depicting a bare breast.

Oscar Arela and his girlfriend were removed from Flight 952 after he refused to change the shirt or turn it inside out at Miami International Airport.

"It's a picture of a man and woman, and the woman's breast is showing," said his girlfriend, Tala Tow. "The flight attendant basically walked up to us and yelled, 'You have to take off that shirt right now.'"

American spokesman Tim Wagner said Sunday that crewmembers acted properly, and said the shirt was more graphic than the couple described. The airline gave them a refund, he said.

Stolen parrot returned

MA SAUGUS — A family bid goodbye to a baby parrot they had bought for \$250 in a deal that proved too good to be true — the valuable bird had been stolen from a pet store.

Fourteen-year-old Alisha Gugliemi and her family lived in the foyer of the Saugus Police Station and parted ways with "Smokey" the African Grey parrot, a species that normally could fetch about \$1,600.

The girl's father, Domenic, was unaware the bird was hot property when he bought it. Police believe the parrot had been stolen hours earlier from a Petco store in Saugus.

When the family learned of the circumstances through an article in the Boston Herald, Domenic Gugliemi called police. After Smokey was returned, Petco issued the family a \$100 gift certificate.

Prison adding employees

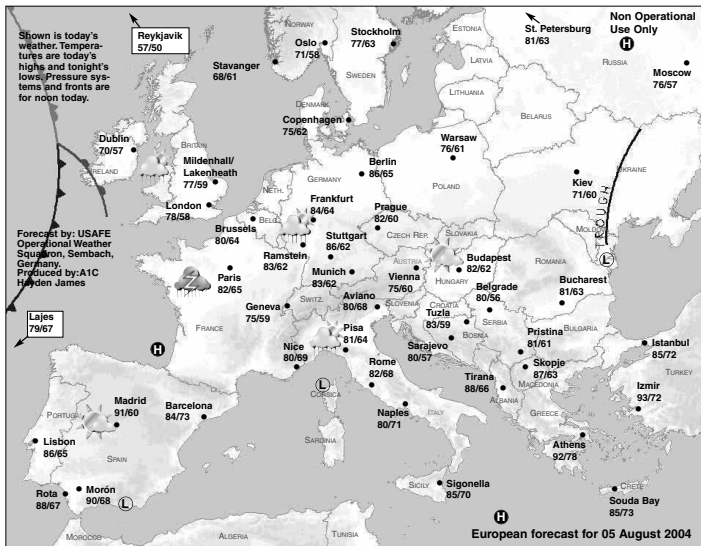
MS TUTTILER — Almost two weeks after 28 inmates set fire to mattresses, clothing and a portable toilet, a private prison is hiring additional guards.

Officials at the Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility said the move was not due to the disturbance but to an expanding inmate population.

Warden James Cooke said the prison would add 37 employees, including about 25 guards.

The facility now houses about 850 inmates, with a capacity of a little more than 1,000. There are about 120 inmates from Colorado, 690 from Hawaii and 40 from Tallahatchie County.

Stories and photos from wire services



KEY: Sunny, Partly cloudy, Mostly cloudy, Cloudy, Showers, Tornado, Rain, Rainstorm, Snow, Cold front, Warm front, Trough, Occluded front, Stationary front, Low High

AFRICA

Capetown	HI 80	LO 52
Nairobi	HI 85	LO 77
Freeport	HI 81	LO 75
Khartoum	HI 87	LO 78

THE WORLD

Amersterdam	HI 10	LO 5
Batavia	HI 29	LO 16
Bombay	HI 89	LO 73
Buenos Aires	HI 85	LO 71
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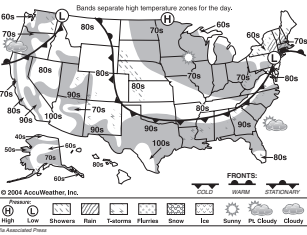
TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Albany, N.Y.	HI 64	LO 54
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THE UNITED STATES TODAY

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STARS & STRIPES.

FACES 'N' PLACES

Schwarzenegger sale

Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife, Maria Shriver, have sold three residential properties, including a home that went to one of Shriver's cousins, a real estate agent said.



Schwarzenegger

"I'll confirm that there was a sale," Steve Lewis of Hilton & Hyland, Beverly Hills, said Monday. Lewis represented the buyer of two of the parcels. The sale was reported Sunday in the Los Angeles Times.

The properties are part of a four-parcel compound in Pacific Palisades that was listed last year at \$18 million for the entire 5.3 acres. The couple haven't lived in the compound since 2002, when they bought a home in Brentwood worth \$11.9 million.

Rocker goes postal, goes to jail

Cris Kirkwood, former bass player for the Meat Puppets rock band, has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for attacking a security guard with a baton outside an Arizona post office.

Kirkwood, 43, pleaded guilty May 10 to a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

He was shot during the Dec. 26 incident at the post office in downtown Phoenix and authorities said he was on probation at the time for a 2000 drug offense.

The properties are part of a four-parcel compound in Pacific Palisades that was listed last year at \$18 million for the entire 5.3 acres. The couple haven't lived in the compound since 2002, when they bought a home in Brentwood worth \$11.9 million.

Kirkwood yelled profanities at Goodrum, then showed the security guard.

In the ensuing scuffle, Kirkwood managed to get Goodrum's collapsible baton away from him and hit him on the head, knocking off the guard's eyeglasses. Goodrum then pulled his handgun and fired a shot into Kirkwood's back, the complaint states.

Trump touts tennis in ads

He's hired! Donald Trump is helping the U.S. Tennis Association promote participation in the sport.

Trump will appear in print ads in the official U.S. Open program and in national publications in the fall. He also taped a promo that will be shown on video screens during the Grand Slam tournament starting Aug. 30.

A regular at the U.S. Open for many years, Trump did the promos as a favor to a friend who's a former USTA board member.

The spots tout the Web site TennisWelcomeCenter.com, which promotes more than 4,000 facilities available across the country where tennis lessons are available. People can find their nearest Tennis Welcome Center by entering their zip code on the Web site.

It's all part of a campaign called "Tennis. Come Out Swingin'" launched in March by the USTA and the Tennis Industry Association, which includes manufacturers and retailers.

VMA's to be packed with stars

MTV continues to add celebrities to the 2004 Video Music Awards. The newest additions read like a veritable list of who's funny, who's in the tabloids and who can flip around two and a half times in midair on a skateboard.

MTV said Monday. MTV also announced that hip-hop artists Lil' Jon, Petey Pablo, the Ying Yang Twins and Terror Squad featuring Fat Joe will perform. Already slated to perform are Usher, Kanye West, Jessica Simpson, Hoobastank and Yellowcard.

The 21st annual awards show will air live Aug. 29 from the American Airlines Arena in Miami.

His '93 jarring video for "99 Problems," which depicts his own murder as a metaphor for his retirement from rapping, leads with six nominations. Beyonce, No Doubt and OutKast received five nominations each.

Hilton

Stars and photos from The Associated Press



P. Diddy at forefront of effort by hip-hop stars to urge fans to get out to polls in November

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Sean "P. Diddy" Combs unveiled his get-out-the-vote initiative, it had all the elements of hot album release party.

There was a DJ spinning cool songs. A "street team" of young kids wearing T-shirts promoting the cause. A few supermodels. Even an A-list celebrity face in Democratic strategist James Carville (well, A-list for political world, that is).

P. Diddy is just the latest rap figure this year to try and make voting cool to a hip-hop generation that Combs has dubbed "the forgotten ones."

Russell Simmons brought his Hip-Hop Summit Action Network to the Democratic National Convention in Boston last week. About 2,000 people turned out as stars such as Wycle Jean, Leon, Lloyd Banks and Bone Crusher urged them to register to vote.

The muzzled mouth of OutKast's Andre 3000, who also was present at the Boston event, is adorning new public service ads by the nonpartisan group Declare Yourself, with the motto "Only You Can Silence Yourself." And Jadakiss, who raps about drug dealing, violence and other thugery in his lyrics, is raising political issues in his new song "Why" and giving interviews about voting and getting the minimum wage raised.

"This is the collective conscious of hip-hop at work," said hip-hop mogul Simmons, who over the past three years has enlisted superstars like Jay-Z, Beyonce, Eminem, Nelly and Ludacris as his group registered thousands of young black and Latino fans to vote.

"It's a cultural snowball effect. We want people to feel like if you don't vote you're an idiot," he told The Associated Press.

The idea of rap stars as political motivators may seem opposite the image projected by many of today's rappers — a crowd that leans toward sex, violence, partying and the bling-bling lifestyle.

However, James Bernard, who organized the Hip-Hop Political Convention in Newark, N.J., earlier this year, points out rap's long history of political muckraking from KRS-One and Public Enemy in the mid-1980s to the current group dead prez.

Although rap has been rapped plenty for its raw content, Bernard believes that "hip-hop music is getting more mature. ... I think it's just taken time for this conversation to bubble up."

Jadakiss and P. Diddy acknowledge as much. Jadakiss says it was time for his music to reflect a larger view of the world. "As an artist, you're supposed to grow. I'm just trying to show maturity and growth as an artist."

Sending a strong message

P. Diddy, who says he hasn't voted since the 2000 election, says running the New York City marathon last year while raising funds for charity helped him realize he could do more with his celebrity.

"I think we're growing up, and No. 2, we're starting to recognize our power, and power is responsibility," he said.

"We have kids, we're thinking about other things. We want to do other things than making jewelry hot and clothes hot."

There have been past efforts to get out the hip-hop vote. During the 2000 election, Rap the Vote, an offshoot of the group Rock the Vote, used Mary J. Blige, P. Diddy, Queen Latifah and others to generate voter turnout among black and minority youth.

But Curtis Gans, director of the Committee for the Study for the American Electorate, says those efforts haven't really helped much.

"People don't vote because of hip-hop artists or rock stars, they vote because they think there's something important to decide," said Gans.

In the 2000 election, about 60 percent of those registered to vote actually did, according to the U.S. Census Bureau figures.

However, among 18- to 24-year-olds, only 36.1 percent did.

Some question whether P. Diddy — or any celebrity — can reverse youth voter apathy, particularly among minorities.

"Celebrities help, but it has to be combined with an organization on the ground who have people and resources who actually go out and register people and at election time reminds those people and helps those people to get out and vote," said David Bositis, senior political analyst for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

The ongoing war, worries about the economy and terrorism are among the issues that may get more young people interested this year, both Bositis and Gans said.

But Kevin Powell, an author who has written extensively about hip-hop and has held town hall meetings in several cities about the state of black men in America, said many of the efforts to spark the hip-hop vote are "too celebrity-driven." "Unfortunately, we're equating the rappers with being leaders, and they're not leaders, they're artists," said Powell, who complained there was little emphasis on issues and supporting new leaders by organizations such as Simmons' network.

"Of course it [celebrity] helps, but there has to be an alliance between the celebrities and the people who were doing the work."

STARS AND STRIPES

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Reservists pay for pay woes

It's too bad 95 percent of the deployed reservists are having pay problems, as we were beginning to think these were an isolated issue with the Arizona National Guard.

Every Arizona soldier deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom II was paid the wrong basic allowance for subsistence rate from December through around April, resulting in a total overpayment of about \$40 per soldier. Rather than collect the \$40 from each soldier's pay, the overpayment was identified, the wizards at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service deemed it necessary to collect five months' worth of BAS out of a single pay period.

Some fortunate and received a check for BAS at the correct rate during the same pay period it was deducted; others received substantially less pay and had a hardship created for their families back home.

Random soldiers received a \$840 casual pay a month after, creating another debt for DFAS to collect and sinking their credit scores deeper and deeper. Our S-1 has been working adamantly with the local finance office, DFAS and our state to get our issues corrected, as probably 80 percent of our soldiers are still owed a significant amount of money due to their collective screw-ups.

It concerns me that people who are supposed to be specialists and subject-matter experts in the finance field can't resolve a simple matter such as collecting a \$40 debt caused by a cashier to receive a "dreaded" "no pay" due.

Soldiers have had to bear the consequences of these mistakes, to include the debt created by a casual pay not even requested. Hopefully, someone will be held accountable for their lack of focus and be looking for a new job in finance.

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Blake

Tallit Air Base, Iraq

ID card problems

I am a Department of Defense Dependents Schools civilian employee in Germany.

My son and I were issued identification cards so we can enter military installations and use facilities such as the commissary and exchange. However, I am also a divorced, single parent. My ex-husband is retired military, which means that my school-age son is also entitled to an ID card. The problem is that he is a military dependent entitled to medical and dental care at any U.S. military installation.

My son's military dependent ID card will expire soon and I am unable to renew it because of numerous bureaucratic snafus. Although my ex-husband mailed the required form to renew the card, requirements for renewal vary from base to base because he does not reside overseas. My attempts to renew the ID card in Rota, Spain, were futile because regulations require my son's Social Security card plus other forms of identification. Since we were on vacation at the time, I did not

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have those required documents. However, a temporary card was issued.

Unfortunately, my son misplaced his temporary card. Therefore, I had to report this loss to the military police in Germany. I was told that my son is not entitled to a second ID card because I am the sponsor in Germany. They did not understand that my son's civilian ID card would not entitle him to medical and dental services, therefore, the military ID card had to be renewed.

We need clear, concise and consistent regulations regarding the renewal of military dependent ID cards for children whose parents are divorced and live in different parts of the world.

Betty Roberts

Schweinfurt, Germany

Don't follow leaders blindly

In response to "Critics need a reality check" (July 27): Since when is a president exempt from criticism?

When Bill Clinton was in office, the Republicans criticized everything he did. Now that the shoe is on the other foot, it is "unpatriotic." To quote Benjamin Franklin, "Patriotism is for the foolish."

We as Americans must resist the temptation to follow leaders blindly. If we examine the annals of history, some of the greatest atrocities might have been avoided if a few people had been critical of their leaders: American slavery, the genocide of the natives in America, and Hitler's Nazis. Contrary to what people may say, humans have not evolved much since these events.

Because someone is critical of this war in Iraq does not mean that we are against our military. I love our American military. They are someone's son, daughter, husband and wife. That's why it pains me to go to bed and see them die for nothing. It upsets me even more to hear people say that they are dying for "freedom"; nothing is further from the truth.

They are dying for an obvious lie told by the president and his administration. Iraq was no threat to the United States. There were no weapons of mass destruction, and Iraq didn't have ties to Osama bin Laden.

Many of us complainers did not; however, the Supreme Court gave it to the other guy. In case your memory is failing, the 2000 election was decided by Jeb Bush and a right-wing Supreme Court.

We complain because we believe in the greatness of this country, and the even greater ideal that we are said to live by. To see an administration once again so torn and the once good reputation of our nation is truly sad.

Gary Greene

Baghdad

Kerry's war actions

A couple of months ago, there was a rather lengthy story on Sen. John Kerry in Stars and Stripes.

Kerry, then a lieutenant (C-1), was the skipper of a Swift boat in Vietnam and was responsible for what the after-action reports for each engagement he was involved in. One incident stands out.

Kerry was charged with the safeguarding of a valuable piece of military equipment, not to mention the lives that depended on his actions while under fire. His boat came under intense enemy fire from an unknown number of Viet Cong or NVA regulars from the river's edge. His boat was to fight or flee; he chose to fight. He turned his craft toward the enemy fire to reduce the size of their target and then deliberately beached his craft.

He, as well as several others in his crew, stated that an enemy combatant realized what was about to happen, dropped his weapon, turned and ran away, attempting to flee the fight. Kerry leapt from his craft, chased the unarmed soldier down and "finished him off."

According to the Rules of War, and the Geneva Convention, a person who is "unarmed" and/or "attempting to flee a fight," is no longer considered an enemy.

Kerry put himself in for and received the Silver Star for this "brave act." I am troubled that he was given a medal when the Navy should have awarded him a silver star of handcuffs for no less than "voluntary manslaughter" and slapped him in the brig. I, for one, cannot conceive that a man who would unjustly take another man's life could be elected president of the United States.

Walter J. Irwin

Ludwigshafen, Germany

What were you thinking?

What were you thinking, National Enquirer? Oh that's right, you are Stars and Stripes.

Why would you print "Working hard in Europe? You must not be a German," by The Associated Press to print? Aren't German-American relations strained enough these days? So the story came out of Belgrade. An American paper chose to run the story about people we live and work with. Yeah, right, this rag is worth \$1.00 on Sunday. NOT!

Don Thompson

Kaiserslautern, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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Doonesbury

DAD, THE DATA IS CONCLUSIVE... GAMING CONDITIONS REFLECTS AN UNBORN HAND-EGG CO-OPERATION.

THE REASON I STICK WITH IT IS TO PRESERVE ALL MY OTHER OPTIONS.

IT'S STILL POSSIBLE IT WILL BECOME AN ABSOLUTE TRAVAIL OR F.B.I. TACT.

OR A HOMOCIDICAL CAR JACKER.

NO, NO, JUST TRY THIS TO UNWIND BETWEEN MATHS GAMES.

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OPINION

Like Vietnam, Iraq redefined by U.S. efforts

Images of the Vietnam War seem to be flooding into our lives lately. Footage of a young Navy Lt. John Kerry in fatigues, carrying an M-16, patrolling the Mekong

Daniel Schneider



Delta. President Bush, in an eerie echo of a previous president from Texas, vowing never to retreat in the face of aggression.

Yet sitting recently in the Cafe Au

Lac on a tree-lined street in Hanoi's old quarter, opposite the elegantly restored French-era Hotel Metropole, it was hard to remember why we fought that war.

In the charged rhetoric of the Cold War, we were told the United States was confronting "the deepening shadow of communist China" that allegedly stood behind Vietnam. Dominoes would topple across Asia if Vietnam fell, and millions lived free their freedom.

In a famous speech in April 1965, Lyndon Baines Johnson evoked the metaphor of appeasement at Munich.

"The central lesson of our time

is that the appetite of aggression is never satisfied. To withdraw from one battlefield means only to prepare for the next."

When I first visited Vietnam in 1981, there were reminders of that ideological struggle. Hanoi was the austere and exhausted capital of a communist state, still digesting its victory in the long-fought Vietnamese civil war. The city was filled with the rubbery hum of bicycles from dawn 'til night. A handful of Swedish aid workers and Eastern European comrades occupied the shabby rooms of the old Metroplex. Sandbagged anti-aircraft batteries still surrounded the airport.

Little of that remains. Today the Vietnamese capital is buzzing with people doing business — from street vendors to the owners of fashion boutiques. The avenues of this charming city are clogged with putting motor scooters, weaving around the growing number of late-model sedans. Outside the city, industrial parks spring up like rice shoots, filled with assembly plants with names like Canon and Samsung.

Vietnam's communist rulers now plot ways to encourage foreign investors and keep growth rates booming. The Vietnamese defense minister eagerly walked the halls of the Pentagon some months ago. And coming later this year —

direct flights from San Francisco to Ho Chi Minh City, as Saigon is called.

America's national interests could be well-served by Vietnam. It is a growing economic partner, a force for stability and regional cooperation in Southeast Asia. Rather than the first domino, Vietnam serves as a counterbalance to the rising power of communist China.

Certainly Vietnam does not embody American values. The communists, like their cousins in China, cling to a monopoly on political power, buying time for their rule by opening the doors of economic freedom.

Human rights are abused and dissidence often rewarded with repression.

Nor is it easy to forget the hundreds of thousands who greatly suffered, including death, in the aftermath of the communist victory over the South.

But what we see today is evidence that neither the American intervention nor the triumph of the communists could really alter the character of this nation. It remains one of Asia's most entrepreneurial, proud, hard-working and creative cultures.

Today, the rhetoric surrounding the decision to invade Iraq seems torn from the pages of the Vietnam book. The consequences of a fail-



ure to intervene were equally withdrawn. And the damage is no less consequential — not so much in the number of lives lost but in the loss of American influence and the division at home.

Iraq, like Vietnam, is proving to be a nation with an indelible character shaped by its own history and culture. Even a military victory of the type that eluded us in Vietnam will not change that. In 10 or 20 years, if we are lucky, Iraq will resemble the other Arab states

that surround it. At the worst, our intervention will yield a fragmented, failed state or a bastion of Islamic radicalism.

If we are going to spend the next months reliving Vietnam, let us finally grasp the lesson of imperial hubris taught to us in that Southeast Asian land. Despite the might the United States commands, it cannot, in the end, use that power to remake other nations.

Daniel Schneider is foreign affairs columnist for the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News.

Don't forget the cloak-and-dagger success stories

BY CHARLES MCCARRY

Deversely or not, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has enjoyed a formidable reputation for cunning, science, omnipotence and dark deeds ever since it was founded in 1947. In most of the world, this view of American intelligence probably still obtains, notwithstanding the findings of recent investigations.

How can the United States, with visible power that is so overwhelming, not also be possessed of invisible powers and secret intentions that beggle the imagination? There is a certain justification for regarding the CIA as some sort of parallel universe. It is, after all, secret. Its resources truly are enormous (although no one but the president and a handful of lofty government officials know just how enormous).

It lives by different laws of moral physics than the rest of the U.S. system. The purpose of an intelligence service is to commit or foreign soil acts that would be illegal in the homeland. As one of the men who trained me when I was a CIA rookie half a century ago cheerily observed: "Espionage is a criminal enterprise. Every time you recruit an agent, you suborn him to treason, which is a capital crime in every country in the world."

Americans have always had difficulty coming to grips with that reality, but they have understood this: The CIA came into being, as its most-revered director, the late Richard Helms, liked to put it, "so that there would never be another Pearl Harbor."

During the bitterest periods of the Cold War, public opinion supported that rationale and accepted that a certain amount of distasteful practice, occurring offshore, was a reasonable price to pay for preventing the end of Western civilization.

Actually, in my time as a CIA covert operative in Europe, Africa and Asia in the 1950s and 1960s, I observed very little skulduggery.

We and our prime adversaries eschewed violence against each other as a sort of charm against revenge. The one fellow officer who habitually did carry a gun was regarded as something of a cartoon figure by the rest of us.

Much of what we did could just as effectively have been done openly and owed more to gamesmanship than to concealed weapons. We were infinitely more likely to fund a democratic trade union or a political party than blow up the offices of a communist front.

My colleagues were highly intelligent, squeaky-clean workaholics who were, as one of them once said to me, "nice boys who went to Yale and wouldn't hurt a fly." This will come as a shock to people who imagined the old CIA as a fascist conspiracy, but the agency I knew was made up of wall-to-wall knee-jerk liberals who were shocked when the New Left attacked them in the '60s.

Most of the American spies I knew are long since dead. Whoever the new people

are in Langley, and whatever their hidden accomplishments and publicized mistakes may be, I'm pretty sure that they are at least as baffled by the anathema that is now being hurled upon them as we were my late friends.

But there has been a new Pearl Harbor on their watch, and the reports of the 9/11 commission and the Senate Intelligence Committee agree that it resulted, "inter alia," from an intelligence failure.

As we reform and reshuffle and rethink, we should reflect that this is not the first time this has happened. We did not know that the Sioux and the Cheyenne were going to massacre the 7th Cavalry or that a German submarine was going to sink the Lusitania or that the Chinese would intervene in Korea (or would not intervene in Vietnam).

The question is, will making the apparatus bigger and more bureaucratic make it better? Is it possible that the problem is that we gather too much information, so that sorting it out becomes a matter of chance rather

than method? Is it possible, even, that our spies are doing better than we think or they think?

Soon after the Berlin Wall fell, I attended the funeral of a former colleague. Afterward, over drinks, the old boys present talked about coronary bypass surgery and hip transplants and other preoccupations of the elderly. Then one of them lifted his glass and said, "Here's to us!"

"What for?" asked the others. "We won," he replied.

"Won what?"

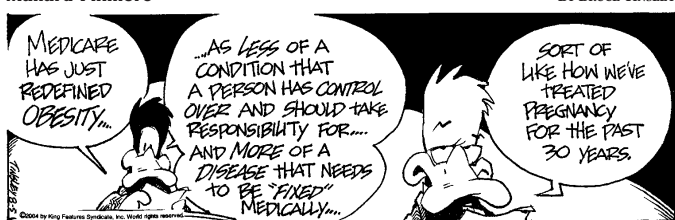
"The Cold War."

Faces brightened as it dawned on those grayheads that, by golly, they had done just that. Fifty years ago, hardly anybody expected an American victory to be the outcome. It might be good to remember that as we reflect on the present and its own imponderable dangers.

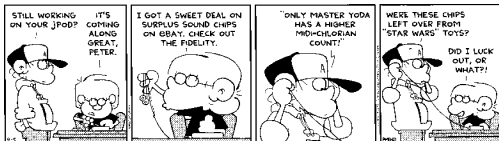
Charles McCarry is a former CIA operative. His tenth novel, "Old Boys," was published in 2002. He is a frequent columnist and first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



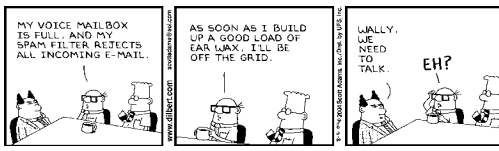
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



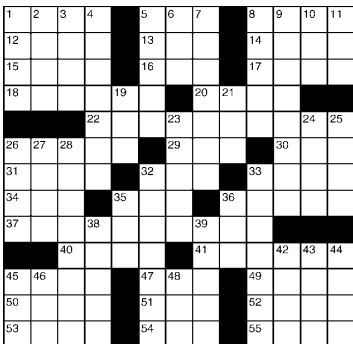
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Puts together
- 5 Raring to go
- 8 Austin Powers' power
- 12 Passion
- 13 Pod dweller
- 14 Acknowledge
- 15 Jane Austen heroine
- 16 Sandy's comment
- 17 Stagger
- 18 Gilligan's boat
- 20 Equitable
- 22 Liberate prop
- 25 Leader
- 29 Giants legend
- 30 Physicist's particle
- 31 Coal carriers
- 32 "CSI" evidence
- 33 Vortex
- 34 Rage
- 35 Corral
- 36 Bewildered
- 37 Famed Pirates
- 40 Actress
- 41 Spelling
- 45 Leave out
- 47 Felon's flight
- 49 Incessantly
- 50 Eatery
- 51 Past
- 52 Ceremony
- 53 Santa's sackful

Down

- 1 Throat clearer
- 2 Ms. Moore
- 3 Rhett's shocking word
- 4 Positions
- 5 Offspring
- 6 Always, in verse
- 7 Crisp, lustrous fabric
- 8 "Sound of Music" role
- 9 "Price Is Right" errors
- 10 "Average —"
- 11 Barn dweller
- 19 Lumox
- 21 Model Carol
- 23 Reed or Summer
- 24 Went by camel
- 25 Novelist Seton
- 26 Stylish
- 27 Circle dance
- 28 Pick out of a lineup
- 32 Tom Jones song
- 33 Openwork shelving
- 35 Part of MPH
- 36 Football fill
- 38 Loves not wisely but too well
- 39 Tabloid tidbit
- 42 Satan's specialty
- 43 Trawler gear
- 44 Genealogy chart
- 45 Autumn abber
- 46 1960s jacket eponym
- 48 Census datum

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-5

CRYPTOQUIP

V T J H N D V D X U D V
X M U O N M F G ' U T E O F O T F T F
U T I M X D F N T I G T E O Q Q T J F G

D U D E T H M E T U O G O T F ?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU WOULD IMAGINE THAT THE LUMBERJACKS COULD JOKINGLY BE KNOWN AS TREETOTALERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals W

Communication can be tricky

Dear Abby: This is in response to "Lonesome for My Daughter," whose youngest daughter, a married college freshman, has quit communicating with her parents.

I, too, married at 19. My parents didn't approve because they were afraid I'd drop out of school. When we would visit my mother, she'd talk with me and ignore my husband. This made our visits few and far between. Could the mother have done something to alienate the son-in-law? My marriage has lasted 12 years. However, the times in my life when I quit communicating with family were when I was undergoing severe marital stress and depression, and didn't want to discuss it or pretend all was well when it wasn't. In a more drastic scenario, my niece cut out family visits for years. When we saw her at Christmas, she'd barely speak to family members. She recently divorced, and now we have

learned she had been in an abusive marriage.

I do think "Lonesome" and her husband should pay a drop-in visit occasionally. Her instincts may be "heads up" for some reason. Keep the visit brief in case the daughter's college schedule is on overload. That way, they can see, talk to, and hug their daughter and new son-in-law—and while they're at it, scope out the situation.

Dear Abby



Dropping off food is always a good excuse for a quick visit or, if there's time, invite them out for dinner.

Mom could also send her daughter a phone card to save them money. Mom should be sure no strings are attached, and her daughter and son-in-law know it can be used to call anyone they need to. I also strongly recommend the Internet. Mom and Dad should learn how to do instant messaging. Ask a quick question, want an answer, gotta

go. These quick messages let parents know their offspring are alive and well, and allow parents to be involved—at least a little—in their children's everyday lives.

—Alice in Vine Grove, KY.

Dear Alice: Those are all wonderful suggestions. Many readers wrote to offer input (and insight) to that mother.

Read on:

Dear Abby: In my experience, cell phones dramatically increase calls to parents because an hour between classes or waiting for a bus is a convenient time to call Mom or Dad for a quick chat.

—Christina in Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Christina: Thank you for lending the younger person's perspective.

Letters for this column—with your name and phone number—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UGLIE

□ □ □ □ □ □

PAUNC

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SHULOC

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RETIGO

□ □ □ □ □ □

Ans: THE

□ □ □ □ □ □

Yesterdays

□ □ □ □ □ □

Jumbles: BRIAR GNOME CALLOW BROKEN

Answer: What the kids turned the den into on a rainy day—A "WRECK" ROOM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Angrison

Love ya, darlin', be home in a bit



WHEN THE UMP DIALED HIS WIFE ON THEIR ANNI-VERSARY, HE MADE—

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Wife's scent a cause for concern

Dear Annie: Please help me. My wife and I are in our mid-40s and have been happily married for over 20 years. The problem is, my wife sometimes has an odor about her that bothers me, and it's happening more frequently.

It's not a nasty odor, just a strange smell that turns me off. She showers daily, and her clothes are impeccable. I once bought her some perfume and body lotion that I thought she would enjoy, but either she doesn't use it or it doesn't help.

I can't bring myself to say anything because I don't want to hurt her feelings or make her angry. Any suggestions?

—Tired of Breathing Through My Mouth

Dear Tired: If you notice this odor, you'd better believe other

Annie's Mailbox



people can as well. You need to tell her before someone else does.

It's very possible that your wife has an underlying medical condition, even menopause, that is causing the problem. You don't need to tell her she reeks. Approach it with love. Tell her you've noticed a change in her scent and you are concerned that it might indicate something is wrong. Ask her to see her doctor.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Frank" who, after 20 years of marriage and three children, wants to come clean with his family and admit he is homosexual.

Every day of my life I wish that my father had been truthful to himself and to us. Instead, he died of complications of AIDS

in 1989.

Six months later, we received the devastating news that my mom was infected. She died in 1994. Mom cried for the last five years of her life. After 39 years of marriage, she felt she never truly knew the man she had been faithful to all those years. My family was devastated.

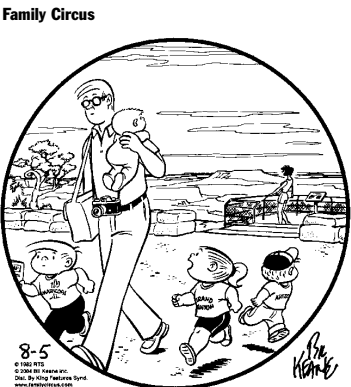
I urge Frank to talk to his wife and children. They have to know the truth. It took me years of counseling and soul searching, but I finally have forgiven my father. My prayers are with Frank and his family.

—Marianne in NYC

Dear Marianne: We hope your words will have an impact.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, long-time editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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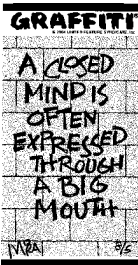
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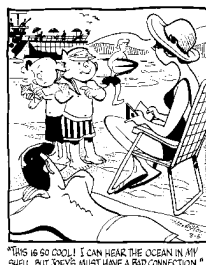
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"Why does Mommy hafta be alone to medicate?"



Dennis the Menace



"THIS IS SO COOL! I CAN HEAR THE OCEAN IN MY SHELL, BUT JOEY MUST HAVE A BAD CONNECTION."

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



NOSES, THE EDITOR...

Mulder gets full support

A's ace wins MLB-best 15th as teammates score 13 runs in N.Y.

[The Associated Press]

NEW YORK — Mark Mulder was struggling and the A.L. West-leading Oakland Athletics were trailing.

No problem. His teammates picked him up. Bobby Crosby and Jermaine Dye made rally-killing plays on defense, and Scott Hatteberg homered twice and drove in five runs to make Mulder the majors' first 15-game winner with a 13-4 victory over the A.L. East-leading New York Yankees on Tuesday night.

"The defense was outstanding and we had a lot of good at-bats," A's manager Ken Macha said. "I don't think Mark had his best stuff."

Mulder (15-3) and the visiting A's found themselves in a 4-1 hole after Jorge Posada hit a three-run homer in the first inning and Gary Sheffield lined his 24th in the third.

But after Oakland tied it in the fourth on Crosby's two-run double and Eric Byrnes' two-out RBI single, rookie shortstop Crosby made a diving catch to start a double play. Then, with two runners on, Dye made an acrobatic catch near the wall in right field to take away a hit from Derek Jeter.

In the fifth, Crosby made two neat plays on consecutive grounders to throw out Posada and Hideki Matsui.

Crosby's shortstop made about four or five great plays, and it was a real momentum stopper for us on several of them," said Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez, the reigning AL Gold Glove shortstop.



Baltimore's Rafael Palmeiro passed Babe Ruth on the career hits list, moving to 36th place with his 2,874th hit on Tuesday.

Mulder won at a ballpark in which he usually struggles. He was 0-4 with a 9.97 ERA at Yankee Stadium in the regular season, and 1-1 at New York in the 2001 playoffs.

"I was just struggling with my delivery in the early innings. Every night is different. Some starts you feel great. Tonight, I didn't," said Mulder, who gave up four runs, eight hits and five walks in seven innings.

"We won the ballgame. I don't care what my record is," Mark Kotsay led off the game with a single and added his 1,000th career hit as Mulder won the 13th game in his 2001 season.

Hatteberg hit a two-run homer in the fifth off Jon Lieber (7-7), and added his 13th homer, a three-run drive off Felix Heredia in the eighth.

"I didn't make adjustments, that's the bottom line," said Lieber, who could be headed to the bullpen when Mike Mussina comes off the disabled list. "I'm just going to have to go down and

work on it. I've just got to make better pitches and I wasn't able to do it."

In other A.L. games on Tuesday:

Red Sox 5, Devil Rays 2: Curt Schilling pitched a six-hitter for his third complete game of the season and Jason Varitek hit a two-run homer to lead visiting Boston.

Schilling (13-5) struck out seven and walked one in his 82nd complete game.

Rocco Baldelli homered for Tampa Bay and Rob Bell (4-5) allowed five runs and seven hits in six innings.

Rangers 5, Tigers 4: At Detroit, Mark Teixeira and Kevin Mench homered, and Eric Young hit a tiebreaking RBI single off Nate Robertson (9-6) in the seventh inning for Texas.

Frank Francisco (3-1) pitched 1 1/3 perfect innings in relief of Kenny Rogers, who failed to become the American League's second 14-game winner.

Twins 10, Angels 0: The host Twins hit four home runs and turned a season-high five double plays, winning for the 12th time in 14 games.

Winning pitcher Carlos Silva (10-7) gave up 11 hits, struck out three and walked two in his first complete game. Torii Hunter, Corey Koskie, Justin Morneau and Henry Blanco homered for Minnesota.

Ryan Lackey (9-10) allowed seven runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Blue Jays 7, Indians 6: Pinch-hitter Frank Menchino drove a bases-loaded walk in the sixth inning after Carlos Delgado hit a two-run homer to tie it as



Mark Mulder (15-3) gave up four runs and eight hits in seven innings on Tuesday, but won his first regular-season game at Yankee Stadium.

Toronto erased a 5-3 deficit with four runs in the bottom of the eighth.

Justin Speier (3-6) allowed one hit in a scoreless eighth inning to get credit for the victory.

Orioles 9-5, Mariners 7-4: Rafael Palmeiro passed Babe Ruth on the career hits list, and the host Orioles swept a doubleheader against the Mariners for the first time in 16 years.

After going 2-for-3 in the day game to tie Ruth for 36th place,

Palmeiro moved past the Bambino in the night game with his 2,874th career hit. Palmeiro drove in three runs in the first game.

Jary Lopez hit a three-run homer in the first game, and Melvin Mora and Larry Bigbie went deep in the second for the Orioles, who clinched their first home series win since May 7-9.

Seattle, which stranded 25 runners in the two games, has lost five straight and eight of nine.

Giants' newcomer Lowry throws three-hit shutout

[The Associated Press]

SAN FRANCISCO — Noah Lowry got called up by the San Francisco Giants on short notice, and made quick work of the Cincinnati Reds for his first major league victory.

Lowry took a no-hitter into the seventh inning of the Giants' 11-0 victory Tuesday night, finishing with a three-hitter in his fourth big league start. He was recalled to start for Dustin Hermanson, whom the Giants will try to use as a closer.

"He's the star of the game," Cincinnati manager Dave Miley said of the rookie left-hander. "A three-hit shutout, you can't get much better than that."

Lowry didn't envision that performance this soon.

"I would have said, 'You're crazy, a shut-out?'" he said. "But you've got to believe in yourself that you can go out and do that. We had the momentum the whole game."

Lowry struck out nine, walked two and also had two singles. He didn't allow a hit until D'Angelo Jimenez's leadoff single in the seventh, and the crowd of 41,228 gave Lowry a brief standing ovation.

"This guy's going to be something," Giants manager Felipe Alou said.

J.T. Snow, Barry Bonds and Pedro Feliz hit consecutive homers in the seventh to back Lowry. Bonds homered twice and matched a season high with five RBIs, raising his home-run total to 23 this season and

NL Roundup

687 in his career. Snow matched a career high with four hits, including a homer.

The Reds activated Ken Griffey Jr. from the disabled list before the game, but he didn't play as Cincinnati lost for the 11th time in 12 games.

In other N.L. games on Tuesday:

Expos 10, Cardinals 6 (12): Tony Batista swung at the first pitch he saw in the top of the 12th inning and led Montreal to victory with one of the most memorable homers of his career.

The Montreal third baseman hit a tying two-run homer in the ninth, then followed that with a grand slam — his 200th homer — in the 12th.

"I didn't know that [was] 200," said Batista, who tied a career high with six RBIs. "I think it's a great moment and something to remember, especially in that situation."

In the ninth, Batista homered just inside the left-field pole off Jason Isringhausen to tie it.

Chad Cordero (3-1) pitched two innings for the victory.

The Cardinals' Albert Pujols became the first player to hit at least 30 homers in each of his first four seasons in a major league roster. Jim Edmonds hit his 29th homer as St. Louis lost for just the second time in nine games.



Los Angeles third baseman Adrian Beltré makes a painful attempt to catch Rob Mackowiak's pop-up Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium. Beltré did not make the catch.

Dodgers 3, Pirates 2: At Los Angeles, Brad Penny beat Pittsburgh to a pair of infield singles over eight scoreless innings in his first game since being traded to the Dodgers.

Penny (9-8) got past the seventh inning for the first time in 12 starts in the Dodgers' 16th win in 21 games.

"I think the front office here showed a lot

of confidence in me," Penny said. "They didn't get Randy Johnson, and I'm sure that's who they probably wanted. So I've got to prove to them that the trade they made is going to work out for them."

Cubs 5, Rockies 3: Kerry Wood pitched eight innings despite a shaky start, and Derrek Lee hit his 21st homer in a five-run second for the visiting Cubs. Wood (6-4) gave up three runs in the first, but allowed just three hits over the next seven.

Mets 12, Brewers 3: At Milwaukee, Al Leiter (8-3) allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings to lower his major league-leading ERA to 2.12 as the Mets snapped a three-game losing streak.

Mike Cameron homered and drove in three runs, and Joe Mewhort also had three RBIs for the Mets, who scored five times in the sixth and nine innings.

Phillies 5, Padres 2: Pinch-hitter Chase Utley drove in the go-ahead run in a three-run seventh and Brett Myers (6-8) won for the first time in nearly seven weeks.

Jim Thome hit his major league-leading 32nd homer for the visiting Phillies.

Diamondbacks 5, Marlins 3: Danny Bautista hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the eighth inning, and Arizona won at home for the first time in nearly a month.

Arizona had lost 11 straight home games, a team record, since beating Minnesota on July 4.

Owner: Garciparra wanted out of Boston

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Boston Red Sox owner John Henry said the team offered Nomar Garciaparra a \$60 million contract a second time in March in a genuine effort to keep him, but the shortstop had no interest in it.

"We were trying to find a way to sign him, and we never received a counter [offer] to any of the proposals we made," Henry told Boston-area reporters Tuesday, when the Red Sox beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 5-2.

Henry also said that six days before Saturday's trade of Garciaparra to the Chicago Cubs, Garciaparra's agent told General Manager Theo Epstein that he had to talk the star shortstop out of asking to be traded.

"We knew from that that he didn't want to be here," Henry said.

Garciaparra is in the final year of his contract and is eligible to become a free agent after the World Series. The Red Sox came close to dealing him in December. He rejected a four-year, \$60 million extension offer made in March 2003 and a \$48 million offer made after the season.

Yankees sign 1B Olerud

NEW YORK — Recently released John Olerud signed with the New York Yankees on Tuesday, giving the team insurance at first base while Jhonny Peralta is treated for a benign tumor.

Olerud, a two-time All-Star, a three-time Gold Glove winner and was the 1993 AL batting champion. But he started slumping in the second half last season with Seattle, and the Mariners cut him last season when his slide continued.

"I've definitely struggled, but I believe I can turn it around," Olerud said before Tuesday night's game against Oakland.

"I don't feel like I'm that far off. I think I'm still that same player."

Olerud was hitting .245 with five home runs and 22 RBIs in 78 games for the Mariners, released on July 27, shortly after he turned down a trade to the San



Francisco Giants. He was in the final year of a contract that guaranteed him \$7.7 million this year.

Japan still undecided about baseball World Cup

TOKYO — Japanese baseball officials are still undecided about whether to participate in the proposed World Cup.

Major League Baseball's chief operating officer Bob DuPuy met with the Japanese baseball commissioner on Tuesday to discuss Japan's concerns about the first World Cup.

Japanese owners rejected a proposed plan last month to stage the first World Cup in March 2005.

Japan's owners will meet in September to discuss the tournament.

Angels place Bengie Molina on DL with broken finger

MINNEAPOLIS — Anaheim Angels catcher Bengie Molina was placed on the 15-day disabled list Tuesday with a broken finger.

Molina, batting .289 with eight homers and 41 RBIs in 228 at-bats, broke the tip of his right index finger in Saturday's game against Seattle.

Molina's brother, Jose, will take over most of the catching duties in his absence.

He was 79

Broadcaster Bob Murphy dies

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Hall of Fame broadcaster Bob Murphy, who covered the New York Mets from the team's inception in 1962 until his retirement after last season, died Tuesday. He was 79.

Murphy died at the Hospice of Palm Beach County, the team said. He had battled lung cancer since his retirement.

Murphy's signature phrases included talking about "the happy recap," after Mets victories and cutting fans listening to broadcasts of tight games to "fasten your seat belts."

The Rocket is 2-0 in four starts since the All-Star Game, when he gave up six first-inning runs before his hometown fans in the NL's 9-4 loss.

"I haven't seen him in awhile," Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said, "and it's OK with me if I don't see him anymore."

Houston went back ahead in the bottom half off Chris Reitsma (4-3). Morgan Ensberg doubled, (4-1). Lamb had a pinch-hit single, and Jose Vizcaino hit an RBI grounder, with Lamb barreling into second baseman Marcus Giles to prevent what would have been an inning-ending double play.

Brad Lidge struck out the final three batters for his 12th save in 14 chances.



United States' Tim Duncan, right, fights with Italy's Alex Righetti for the ball Tuesday in Cologne, Germany. The U.S. lost to Italy 95-78, its most lopsided defeat since NBA players began competing in 1992.

Team USA routed in exhibition with Italy

By ROY KAMMERER

The Associated Press

COLOGNE, Germany — The U.S. Olympic basketball team quickly shrugged off its stunning exhibition loss to Italy.

"It doesn't hurt at all. It's great preparation," center Tim Duncan said. "If it happened to us in the Olympics, that's different. This doesn't hurt at all."

The United States was beaten 95-78 Tuesday, just 10 days before its first contest in the Athens Games. It was the most one-sided and embarrassing loss ever by an American team comprised of NBA players. The Americans will try to win their fifth straight Olympic gold medal and improve on their 24-0 record since allowing pro players to participate in 1992.

Carmelo Anthony scored a team-high 19 points, and Duncan had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Americans, who trailed from the opening minutes and were blown out in the fourth quarter.

The loss confirmed one of coach Larry Brown's biggest fears, that his team lacks "pure shooters." Tracy McGrady and Vince Carter led the team to a 10-0 mark in Olympic qualifying, but they decided not to go to Athens.

"We're going to have to play good defense every night because we're going to have some off-shooting nights," Brown said before the game.

The Americans had the poor shooting night Brown predicted, sinking just four three-pointers

against Italy's zone defense. The defense played by the United States was even worse than its offense.

The Italians, fifth at the Sydney Olympics, made 15 shots from behind the arc and got 28 points from Giacomo Galanda and 25 from Gianluca Basile.

Basile was 7-for-15 from three-point range, and Galanda was 5-for-8 as the Italians had an easy time finding players for open shots from the outside.

"We just didn't communicate well on defense," said Allen Iverson, who scored 13 points. "I think we need something like this to understand it's not going to be easy."

Every time the Americans made a run, the Italians responded with a three-pointer. When Iverson scored to trim the deficit to 56-52, Basile responded with two straight three-pointers that built the lead back up to 10. European teams are known for having players that can knock down a 3 from the shorter international arc.

With just one week of practice, the Americans didn't resemble a team. Most other countries employ a unit that has played together for years. Everyone on Italy's roster plays in that country's top league.

"We need more time together. These teams play together for years and we have to put it together in a couple of weeks," forward Lamar Odom said. "Our defense wasn't up to par. This was a lesson for us."

Mavs deal forward Walker to Atlanta

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Dallas Mavericks traded Antoine Walker and Tony Delk to the Atlanta Hawks for Jason Terry and Alan Henderson on Wednesday.

The Mavericks also will receive a future first-round draft pick from the Hawks.

Terry, the Hawks' first-round pick in the 1999 NBA draft, averaged 16.8 points and 5.4 assists last season but is more of a combo guard than a pure point guard. The Mavericks, however, need a point guard after losing Steve Nash to free agency, and they see Terry as a scorer who has flourished in coach Don Nelson's system.

Atlanta sees Walker as a crucial piece in their rebuilding.

The 6-foot-9 Walker has averaged 19.9 points in his career.

Source: Free agent Traylor headed back to Cleveland

CLEVELAND — Free agent Robert "Tractor" Traylor is returning for a second stint with the Cleveland Cavaliers, a league source told the Associated Press on Tuesday.

Traylor will be in Cleveland on Wednesday for a physical, and as long as he passes, he'll sign a one-year deal, the source said.

The Cavaliers will use their \$1.6 million level-1 exception to sign Traylor, who will compete with recently acquired Drew Gooden to be the Cavaliers' starting power forward.

Report: Spurs re-sign Horry

HOUSTON — Robert Horry, who has five championship rings, re-signed with the San Antonio Spurs, according to a broadcast report Tuesday.

Horry told Houston television station KHV that he's signed a one-year deal with a player's option for the second year, but did not disclose the financial terms.

Horry averaged 4.8 points and 3.6 rebounds last year in San Antonio.

Wizards sign S. Walker

WASHINGTON — The Washington Wizards signed free agent Samaki Walker on Wednesday.

Walker, a forward, has played with the Wizards, San Antonio, the Los Angeles Lakers and Miami.

In his eight-year NBA career, Walker is averaging 5.5 points and 4.9 rebounds.

Seeds: Clemens says story blown out of proportion

SEEDS, FROM BACK PAGE

He allowed four hits in seven straight innings, leaving with a 2-1 lead after walking the first two batters in the eighth. Dan Miceli (4-5) retired Charles Thomas on a forceout, then led the bases with a walk to Marcus Giles and allowed an RBI groundout to Chipper Jones.

Miceli rebounded the bases with a walk to Johnny Estrada, then struck out Adam LaRoche to end the threat.

Clemens, who struck out six in the first inning, remained at 322 victories, two behind Nolan Ryan and Don Sutton for 12th place on the career list. He gave up two runs, one earned.

"I'd one of his best outings that I've seen," manager Phil Garner said.

Rogers signs one-year deal with Hornets

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The Hornets signed Rodney Rogers to a one-year contract on Tuesday, adding to the possibility the Jamal Mashburn may be hobbled by a knee injury next season.

New Orleans coach Byron

Scott, who also coached Rogers in New Jersey, said the 6-foot-7 forward likely would start at small forward if Mashburn remains sidelined with knee problems.

The Hornets announced both the Rogers deal and the signing of their second-round draft pick,

Tim Pickett of Florida State, who got most of one-year deal. Financial terms were not released.

An 11-year veteran, Rogers declined to exercise an option on the final year of his contract with the Nets and became an unrestricted free agent.

Action sports show respect for their elders

Older athletes prominent as X Games turn 10

BY RYAN PEARSON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — They are ancient by their sports' standards, flipping and swooping and surviving bone-crunching falls in a world that worships the young.

Look at Jeff Ward, a Supermoto rider at 43. Then there's Dave Mirra, a 30-year-old BMX biker who just wants to pack his gear and go home at the end of a long day. Bob Burnquist has a 4-year-old daughter who was on a skateboard before she could walk.

Sure, the X Games are marking their 10th year with the usual reckless mix of breathtaking speed and bravura-testing midair stunts. But now some of the event's biggest names are well outside the youth culture that defines action sports.

They've become elder statesmen in pursuits that deliver marsh bodily punishment for not-quite-complete twists and awkward landings.

Burnquist, Mirra and a handful

of other stars have video games named for them, appear in TV milk ads and have written autobiographies. They are the mainstream, maturing faces of alternative sports.

"It's awesome," said longtime dirt bike rider Mike Metzger, who appeared in Mountain Dew commercials and lands a backdrop in the movie "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle."

"And it's totally ridiculous that

I'm a well-known celebrity now because of all the coverage."

Organizers of the X Games, which begin Thursday in the Los Angeles area, are banking on the star power of the sports' established athletes. (The Games will be broadcast live on ESPN, ABC and AFN; check score-board page for listings.) For the first time, qualifying rounds have been eliminated.

Instead, industry experts selected up to 10 people to compete in each of 17 finals-only events.

The oldest athlete is Ward. The youngest is a returning champion, 14-year-old skateboarder Ryan Sheckler, who is on his way to ninth grade in Orange County. Sheckler said "going head-to-head

against competitors nearly twice his age."

"This is what it's been like forever. I've always skated against older people," he said.

Media exposure of aging stars like Tony Hawk — who is working as an announcer this year — has helped legitimize action sports for parents and allowed children to develop skills more quickly, X Games General Manager Chris Stiepeak said.

"Now you've got less of a stigma" attached to alternative sports, he said. "The young-sters are coming up."

Pro skateboarder Andy MacDonald, 31, finds himself swooping past kids as young as 5 when he shows up to skate for fun at parks around the country.

Andy MacDonald
31-year-old
pro skateboarder

"I'd be lying if I didn't say it makes me feel good," he said. "I wish I started that young because it seems like you're made out of rubber and the learning curve goes up faster."

Falls are frequent in action sports, at any age.

"The younger the body, the easier it is when you slam," said Burnquist, who has recovered from 25 broken bones. "When I get hurt, it's time to heal. It's just heal,

X Games for all ages

Competitors for the 10th annual X Games range in age from 14 to 43. Some of the event's most recognizable athletes are well outside the youth culture that still defines action sports.

Some high profile competitors at the 2004 X Games

NAME	AGE	SPORT	BEGAN COMPETITION
Bob Burnquist	27	Skateboard	1992
Innovator who was the first to loop a natural full pipe in 2003			
Andy MacDonald	31	Skateboard	1996
Had highest "Overall Points" in World Cup Skateboarding, 1998-2003			
Mike Metzger	28	Moto X	1990
A chief pioneer and creative force in freestyle motocross			
Dave Mirra	30	Freestyle BMX	1992
Most X Game gold medals with 11; tied with Tony Hawk for most overall medals with 16			
Ryan Sheckler	14	Skateboard	2003
The youngest skateboarder to win gold at the X Games			
Kelly Slater	32	Surfing	1990
Six-time world champion			
Jeff Ward	43	Moto X	1977
Has raced several disciplines incl. motocross, Supercross, Indy 500			

Source: ESPN.com

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Bryant's accuser considering whether to go ahead with trial

BY COLLEEN SLEVIN
The Associated Press

DENVER — The woman who accused Kobe Bryant of rape will have to discuss with prosecutors whether she will go ahead with the criminal case because she fears the release of court documents about her sex life threatens her chance of getting a fair hearing, one of her lawyers said Wednesday.

John Clune said his 20-year-old client will have to talk to prosecutors soon about that and will also consider whether to file a civil suit against the NBA star.

Asked if his client is considering dropping out of the criminal case, Clune told The Associated Press: "That's something she and prosecutors will have to discuss in the immediate future. The DA's office will have to make that decision on what they want to do."

The woman's other lawyer, L. Lin Wood, said decisions on how to proceed should be made in a matter of days. Bryant is sched-

uled to go on trial Aug. 27 in Eagle, Colo.

"This young woman is not going away. Whether it proceeds criminally or civilly or both, justice is going to be had for this young woman," Clune said.

Prosecutors have been in constant contact with the accuser and her lawyers and were told the woman would still participate even after the release of the transcripts, district attorney's spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said Wednesday.

"Nothing has changed with our plans of going forward with the prosecution of this case," she said.

Under pressure from the U.S. Supreme Court, District Judge Terry Ruckriegel on Monday released 200 pages of transcripts from a closed-door hearing in June. The transcripts had been mistakenly e-mailed to The Associated Press and six other media organizations, who fought for the right to publish their contents.

The documents include testimony from a DNA expert for the de-

fenses, ranging from Burnquist's organic fruit and vegetable farm to Way's DC Shoes. Surfer Kelly Slater is starting a weekly satellite radio show.

MacClung lends his name to mass-marketed skateboards and gear, eyeing the team when he'll no longer be admired by the young.

"Pretty soon you won't be marketable any more," he said. "Basketball kids don't want to see their fathers skating."

On the net:
<http://exp.com/expn/summer/2004/index>

ness, Elizabeth Johnson, who says she is convinced the accuser had sex with someone after Bryant and before she contacted authorities — a claim that Clune has vehemently denied.

Johnson based her conclusion on the discovery of another man's sperm on the woman when she underwent a rape exam at a hospital. Prosecutors have suggested the woman put on underwear that hadn't been washed before going to the hospital, transferring semen from a man identified only as "Mr. X" to her body.

The judge has said the defense can present evidence about the woman's sexual activities in the three days before the July 1, 2003, hospital exam, saying it is relevant to help determine the cause of her injuries, the source of DNA evidence and her credibility.

Bryant, 25, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault, saying he had consensual sex with the woman at a Vall-area resort last summer. If convicted, he faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine up to \$750,000.



Brown says days as Raider are coming to abrupt end

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

NAPA, Calif. — Receiver Tim Brown told some of his Oakland teammates, including Jerry Rice, that he won't be playing for the Raiders this season.

"What he said to the guys is that he's not going to be around anymore," Rice said after practice Tuesday. "I don't know what was said, but he's not going to be here anymore. This basically is going to wake everybody up that this is a business. You can't come in and feel like you've got it made."

Brown met with Raiders owner Al Davis on Tuesday and has another meeting scheduled to discuss his future with the team.

Brown, the longest-tenured Raider, appeared resigned to probably continuing his 17-year NFL career in another city.

"You know, if you asked me that a week ago, I would've said no," Brown said Tuesday of joining another team. "But certainly, even standing out here, that's not something I want to think about. I don't know what could happen to change what is going on, and certainly you don't want to see anybody get injured or anything of that nature to change your situation."

"I mean, there are going to be things I'm going to have to think about in the future, and we'll make those decisions."

Brown took part in position drills Tuesday, but sat out the rest of practice. The receivers got together at the end, Brown said he'd be going, and they all put their helmets together and cheered "Brown!"

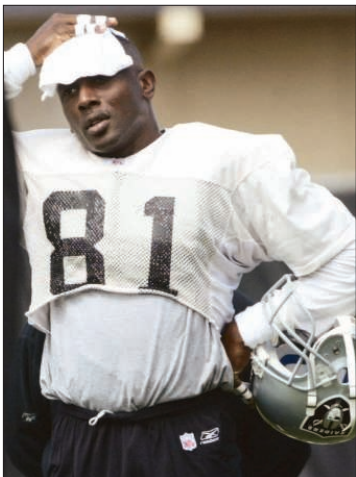
New coach Norv Turner plans to use his young players, and fifth-year pro Jerry Porter is on track to becoming the franchise receiver of the future. The Raiders also have Rice, 41, and rookie Johnnie Morant and Carlos Francis, along with a handful of other receivers they'd like to look at.

So what becomes of the 38-year-old Brown, who finished last season with 52 catches for 567 yards and two touchdowns? Turner confirmed Tuesday that if Brown does stay with the Raiders his role "wouldn't be what it's been" and that Porter is ready to be the starter.

"This is not an easy decision for anybody," Brown said. "You're talking about the so-called Mr. Raider the last 16 years. . . . The timing of the situation, I'd rather do it now than the last cut of the year, for sure."

Brown has been durable, missing only one game in the past 11 seasons, and is a respected leader.

During the Raiders' embarrassing 4-12 season a year ago — the worst collapse by a team that reached the Super Bowl the previous season — Brown spoke up in a team meeting and asked his teammates to shut up and play.



Raiders receiver Tim Brown towels off his forehead at training camp. Brown met with Raiders owner Al Davis on Tuesday and has another meeting scheduled to discuss whether he has a future with the team.

"This is not an easy decision for anybody. You're talking about the so-called Mr. Raider the last 16 years. . . . The timing of the situation, I'd rather do it now than the last cut of the year, for sure."

Tim Brown

Raiders receiver

It was his effort to get the Raiders back on track after the franchise's worst start in 39 years. It also followed public criticism by cornerback Charles Woodson of then-coach Bill Callahan.

Brown even offered to let his teammates blame him for all the problems instead of their coaches or other players. About 10 of the Raiders watched a Monday night game at Brown's house.

But after the season on his weekly radio show, Brown ac-

cused Callahan of sabotaging the season in order to get fired and said some players had to be held back from physically going after the coach.

Callahan later denied it and said Brown was just upset after being told in October that Porter would replace him in the starting lineup.

Brown has been a Raider since they drafted him in the first round in 1988 after he won the Heisman Trophy at Notre Dame.

"I think it's a big surprise. When you think about the Raiders you think about Tim Brown," Rice said. "It's a weird game. You never know when this situation might occur. It's going to be weird not having that guy around to pull me through practice."

Brown has caught 1,070 passes for 14,734 yards and 99 touchdowns. He's averaged 13.8 yards per catch and started 198 of 240 games.

Brown's most productive season came in 1997, when he caught 104 passes for 1,408 yards and five touchdowns. Brown's 11 TDs in 2000 were a career high.

"Obviously, I've never been a guy who ran 40 yards down the field, but what I do is what I do," he said. "And if my mind-set is still on doing those things, I believe I can still do them, and my mind is certainly toward still playing football."

Viking conquers Hall of Fame

Former Minnesota Vikings star Carl Eller will be formally enshrined into the Hall of Fame on Sunday along with fellow football greats, Bob Brown, John Elway, and Barry Sanders.



CARL ELLER • Defensive End
1964-78 Minnesota Vikings
1979 Seattle Seahawks

Eller

Drafted: Selected 1st round (6th overall) in 1964 by Minnesota Vikings; also in the 1st round (5th overall) of the AFL draft by the Buffalo Bills

Pro career: 16 seasons, 225 games

► **Excellent** at stopping the run; devastating pass-rusher

► **Selected to six** Pro Bowls 1969-72, 1974-75

► **Named first- or second-team All-NFL** each season, 1967-73

Photo credit: Pro Football Hall of Fame

"Did not play individual glory."

Purple People Eater Eller finally gets call

BY DAVE CAMPBELL

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Success came quickly for Carl Eller, a mainstay on a Minnesota Vikings defensive line that dominated the NFL for more than a decade as the Purple People Eaters.

Eller's enshrinement into the Pro Football Hall of Fame required some patience, though.

A finalist five times before, the call finally came in January.

Along with John Elway, Barry Sanders and Bob Brown, he will be inducted Sunday in Canton, Ohio.

"The wait has certainly made me more excited," said Eller, who finished his career with the Seattle Seahawks in 1979. "I'm glad it happened, and I certainly appreciate it."

What he appreciates the most, actually, is the amount of time he got to spend on good teams with good friends.

A first-round draft pick out of the University of Minnesota in 1964, Eller became a regular at left end as a rookie. He held his job for 15 seasons — tormenting blockers and quarterbacks around the league. Earning a feared front four with Alan Page, Jim Marshall and Gary Larsen and helping lead the Vikings to four Super Bowls from 1969-77.

Eller, Page and Marshall all live in the Twin Cities and see each other regularly.

"When we're together, it's just like old times," said Eller, Minnesota's career sacks leader with 130. "We dominated the opposing teams, certainly some of them, for a while. That's one of the great things about sports: the competitiveness. It's win or lose . . . but it's not a lot of gray matter in there."

Eller — who will be introduced on Sunday by his son, Regis — certainly had the respect of his opponents. Brown, an offensive tackle, called Eller one of the toughest pass rushers he ever faced.

"I had great combat with Carl Eller," Brown said. "Every time I saw Carl Eller, he had his 'A' game going and I had my 'A' game going, too. Because if I didn't have my 'A' game going, then I was going to look like a jerk."

Nicknamed "The Moose," Eller will be the seventh member of the Vikings in the Hall. Page, quarterback Fran Tarkenton, safety Paul Krause, offensive tackle Ron Yary, coach Bud Grant and administrator Jim Finks are the others.

"This effort to be excellent — to be good at what he did all the time — was really a manifestation, I think, of what those teams were all about," Page said. "It wasn't about individual glory."

A North Carolina native, Eller was on a division winner in 10 of his last 11 seasons with the Vikings. He uses his quickness and 6-foot-6, 250-pound frame to earn five All-Pro selections.

"Carl was a complete football player," Page said. "I don't know that I could pinpoint any particular strength. One of the beauties of those teams, particularly the front four, was that we all complemented each other so well that it was hard to say where somebody's strength ended and somebody else's began."

Eller also is one of only three Vikings to start more than 200 games.

"You don't achieve greatness without being able to play a lot of games," Grant said. "Durability is the greatest ability you can have."

The Vikings made a strong push to get Eller and Marshall elected this year, because it was their last chance as modern-era candidates. Those who have been retired longer than 25 years have a tougher time getting in, since there are only two senior players among the 15 finalists.

Eller was disappointed Marshall didn't get in, and he can relate — having missed out so many times himself.

Still active in the community, primarily with programs for inner-city youth, Eller has thoroughly enjoyed life in Minnesota.

The local fan support, he said, made it easy to cope with the disappointment of four Super Bowl losses and the waiting for his call from Canton.

"That's really what kept me going," Eller said. "They always told me I was a Hall of Famer in their book."

Cowboys unexpectedly cut QB Carter

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

OXNARD, Calif. — Quincy Carter was cut by the Dallas Cowboys on Wednesday, leaving the team with 40-year-old Vinny Testaverde as their starting quarterback.

"We made a decision to move in a different direction," owner Jerry Jones said during a news conference. "This on my part was not a difficult decision at all, though it is very disappointing, very disappointing."

The third-year player, who started every game last season, came to camp expecting to be the team's No. 1 QB.

I'm saddened by this turn of events, I really am," coach Bill Parcells said. "I just couldn't keep him in the plans."

Jones and Parcells declined to give specifics on why the move was made.

"I'm not going to get into a definition of what it was about," Jones said.

Carter's agent, Eugene Parker, did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

After practice, Parcells gave the players some sort of explanation about Carter's departure, but players declined to comment on the discussion.

"I think I probably speak for all the guys of how disappointed we are that Quincy is no longer going to be part of this team,"

Testaverde said. "But at the same time we know we have to look forward to getting things down and go out and win games."

Testaverde said Carter stopped by camp Wednesday morning and told him and several other players goodbye. Testaverde said he didn't know why Carter was cut and didn't want to speculate.

"We're shocked, just like everybody else," safety Roy Williams said. "We're mind-boggled like everyone else is."

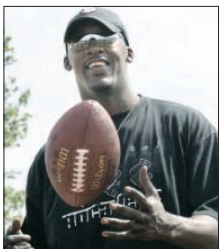
The Cowboys drafted Carter in the second round out of Georgia in 2001. He was picked as the starter to replace Troy Aikman during his first training camp, but he struggled and only started the first eight games. He went 3-5, completing 90 of 176 passes for 1,072 yards, five touchdowns and seven interceptions.

The next season, he emerged from camp as the starter again, leading Dallas to a 3-4 record before losing the job to Chad Hutchinson.

Last season, the Cowboys went 10-6 with Carter starting and returned to the play-offs in Parcells' first year in Dallas. Carter threw for 3,302 yards, but had 21 interceptions and 17 touchdowns.

He was intercepted at least twice in a game six times.

Wednesday's surprising move leaves three quarterbacks in camp for the Cow-



In 31 games for Dallas, Quincy Carter threw for 5,839 yards and had 29 touchdown passes and 36 interceptions.

boys: Testaverde, who is reuniting with Parcells; Drew Henson, an NFL rookie after trying to play major league baseball; and unproven second-year player Tony Romo.

Dallas opens the regular season at Min-

nesota on Sept. 12.

Carter came into camp expecting to start.

"I wouldn't say it's an open competition," Carter said Saturday after the team's first workout in California. "I'm clearly the starter right now ... The team knows who their starter is. I'm going to stand firm on that, and I'm going to be their leader."

Carter took snaps with the first-team offense when training camp opened.

Parcells had said Carter had an early advantage, but that he'd chose a starting quarterback based on what he saw in camp.

The coach had given Carter off-season instructions to add muscle, work on mechanics and footwork, and get better throwing on the run to cut down his high interception total.

Carter added four pounds of muscle, getting to 219 pounds. He was a long way from the pudgy-looking 223-pounder he was when the coach arrived.

The Cowboys on Wednesday signed linebacker Ryan Fowler, who practiced with the team. Fowler puts the Cowboys one player over the active roster limit, meaning the team would have had to have made another move before his signing.

The Cowboys have not announced any other roster moves.

QB Roethlisberger signs with Pittsburgh

The Associated Press

Ben Roethlisberger got the quarterback premium he wanted from the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The 11th overall pick and third quarterback taken in the draft, Roethlisberger signed a six-year contract with the Steelers on Tuesday. The deal includes a signing bonus of \$9,009,000, about \$1 million more than cornerback Dante Robinson, the 10th pick, got from Houston.

"We felt that quarterbacks deserve a premium, and the Steelers ultimately agreed," said Leigh Steinberg, Roethlisberger's agent.

Roethlisberger is the third of the four quarterbacks chosen in the first round of the draft to agree to terms.

El Matt Manning, the first overall pick, got a \$20 million signing bonus from the New York Giants. J.P. Losman, taken 22nd overall, signed last weekend with Buffalo.

Philip Rivers, taken fourth overall, and tight end Kellen Winslow, the sixth player chosen, remain the highest unsigned draft picks among the five first-rounders not under contract.

Rivers was taken by the Giants then traded to San Diego for Manning, who requested before the draft that the Chargers pass on him. Rivers' agent, Jimmy Sexton, is seeking first-pick money for his client even though he was No. 4 overall.

That figures to be a difficult signing, as does Winslow, whose agent, Kevin Poston, already has turned down a contract similar to the one signed with Washington by safety Sean Taylor, taken fifth overall.

Three hours after arriving at



camp, Roethlisberger attended a quarterbacks meeting. He will be on the field for two practices Wednesday, one at a high school before a crowd that could reach 10,000.

"I'm excited, nervous, all the same feelings I had at mini-camp," he said. "Once I get out and throw the first couple of passes, it will be a relief and I'm sure it will come back to me."

Titans LB Sirmon out for year

Tennessee starting linebacker Peter Sirmon tore ligaments in his left knee and probably will miss the season. The team believes he will need reconstructive surgery.

"It felt like my knee kind of came apart," he said.

Flutie's knee deemed OK

An MRI exam showed Doug Flutie's left knee has no structural damage, and the 41-year-old quarterback for the San Diego Chargers expected to practice Wednesday. Flutie sat out five practices.

"It's fine," he said. "They're treating me like I'm old."

Vikings C Birk hurting

Pro Bowl center Matt Birk left Minnesota's camp for a follow-up examination on a pelvic injury that has sidelined him for practice the past two days. Coach Mike Tice said the worst-case scenario is Birk won't be ready in 2-3 weeks, and that he's been guaranteed Birk will be ready for the opener Sept. 12 against Dallas.

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SPORTS



After 16 seasons, WR Brown believes he's being pushed out of Oakland, Page 30

Seeds of controversy

Ejected from his son's youth league game? Clemens says it didn't happen

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens was in no mood to celebrate the Houston Astros' latest victory or his 42nd birthday.

The Rocket walked purposefully into the clubhouse Tuesday night, but in his right hand, to make his case. It didn't take long before the anger within him bubbled to the surface.

"This is a shame and it's not even an issue," Clemens said, emotion choking his voice. "It's very scary that it affects my family. A lot of people owe my family an apology."

Clemens pitched seven strong innings on the eve of his birthday in Houston's 3-2 win over the Atlanta Braves, but he was clearly upset as he publicly addressed his ejection Saturday from his 10-year-old son's youth league game in Craig, Colo.

After his son was called out on a close play, Clemens was banished to the parking lot after an umpire accused him of spitting a sunflower seed at him.

The Rocket had apparently been waiting to tell his side of the story, making his postgame comments from the coaches' room of the clubhouse instead of the usual spot in front of his locker.

Clemens started out calmly, even joking with reporters about the ejection at first. But he grew more exasperated with each question, finally going on a five-minute tirade.

"I guess I'm a champion seed-spitter," Clemens said. "I was probably a good 20 yards from the field. I've been able to see ... comments like I was nose-to-nose and toe-to-toe and arguing. I was sitting on a bucket talking to fans and signing in between."

He denied even being tossed from the game, saying that he went to the car — as he always does — toward the end of the game and didn't even see the disputed play.

"They did not ask me to leave. I did not know that I was even supposedly thrown out," Clemens said. "I go to my car every day to plan my escape route after I sign."

"One of the coaches told me that they threw me out and I said 'Why did they throw me out?' I'm not even a coach or even on the field. One of the coaches told me that he got nervous and his [umpire's] lips were quivering because he was

nervous or he messed up or something."

Since leaving Colorado, Clemens said he's received two apologies — he declined to identify who made them — and hundreds of calls from people expressing dismay about his treatment while there.

"We got the great phone calls from the people that mattered that were there and they were just appalled by the entire situation," Clemens said. "One guy just wanted to get his name in the paper."

A short time later, Clemens sighed deeply as if to calm himself then hurriedly walked out of the clubhouse.

Clemens' postgame fury overshadowed another impressive outing on the mound.

SEE SEEDS ON PAGE 28

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Roger Clemens

Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens reacts after walking Atlanta Braves' Chipper Jones during Tuesday's game in Houston. Clemens pitched seven innings but did not get the decision in the Astros' 3-2 victory.

AP



Cowboys make surprising change at quarterback, cut Quincy Carter

Page 31



Two-homer night for Hatteberg as Mulder scores rare win in Bronx

Page 27



U.S. team drubbed in exhibition by unheralded Italy

Page 28



"I guess I'm a champion seed-spitter. I was probably a good 20 yards from the field. ... I was sitting on a bucket talking to fans and signing in between."

Roger Clemens